

Strategic Risk Register – May 2017

Risk Description	Owner	Controls	I	L	S
<p>Community Consultation and Engagement Failure to properly consult customers in line with legislative and regulatory requirements (as appropriate to relevant service areas). Failure to involve communities when planning services.</p> <p>Consequences: Intervention by regulatory bodies, legal challenge, reputational damage and additional costs. Services will not be shaped around the needs of people in the community.</p>	Simone Chinman-Russell – Executive Director Ka Ng Executive Director Tony Kingsbury - Executive Member for Policy & Culture	Tenant Involvement Strategy (Housing) Appropriate policies and procedures in place for all services Borough Panel Tenants’ Panel Alliance Strategy Regular consultation exercises carried out by services	High	Low	8
Recent large consultation exercises involving the Local Plan and the introduction of green garden waste charging have been delivered, and the risk rating reduced from 12 to 8 as a result of this.					
<p>Equality and Diversity The council failing to comply with its legal and moral obligations to customers, staff, partners, Members and the wider community.</p> <p>Consequences: Litigation (and associated financial impacts) and reputational damage.</p>	Simone Chinman-Russell – Executive Director Tony Kingsbury - Executive Member for Policy & Culture	Corporate equality group with clear aims and relevant membership Training for staff, Members and Tenants’ Panel Appropriate HR policies in place and implemented Equalities Impact Assessment process in place	High	Low	8
A new Strategic Steering Group has been appointed and has now met for the first time. It will continue to meet quarterly. Externally facilitated training is also being delivered to all Directors and Heads of Service over April and May 2017 with two full days allowed for this.					
<p>Management of Council owned property assets Failure to provide and maintain council property assets, including housing and non-housing property. Taking opportunities to invest in assets.</p> <p>Consequences: Increased homelessness in the borough and detrimental impact on the community. Economic development may be stifled. Possibility of assets becoming unsafe or unfit.</p>	Ka Ng - Executive Director Simone Chinman-Russell – Executive Director Roger Trigg - Executive Member for Governance,	Housing and Homelessness Strategy Asset Management Plan HRA Asset Strategy/Business Plan Proactive approach to taking opportunities for increasing our property portfolio (social and commercial properties)	Very High	Low	10

	Community Safety, Police and Crime Commissioner and Corporate Property				
The purchase of Culpitt House in Hatfield Town Centre was completed in Quarter 4 and this has been added to the Council's portfolio.					
Safeguarding Failure to meet obligations in respect of children, vulnerable adults and persons vulnerable to radicalisation. Consequences: Abuse may remain unreported or undetected, resulting in harm to a vulnerable child or adult. Possible litigation and reputational damage.	Simone Chinman-Russell – Executive Director Tony Kingsbury - Executive Member for Policy & Culture	Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy/Safeguarding Children Policy being developed to replace existing council policy– following re-integration of the housing service. Safeguarding audit and action plan – updated regularly by Safeguarding Steering Group	High	Low	8
A new Strategic Steering Group has been appointed recently to oversee Safeguarding policy and practice across the council. A network of Designated Safeguarding Officers across our services teams is due to be refreshed to take account of staffing and organisational changes.					
Change Management There continues to be immense change in the council's operations, services and senior management. The ending of the Housing Trust and consequent reabsorption of the housing service back into the council has been a catalyst for complete change at the top. We now have three new directors, and a new Chief Executive will start in May 2017. The next twelve months will see these major changes bedding in and have the potential to be very challenging, both politically and managerially. It is critical that we continue deploying all our skills in managing these changes, both at managerial and political levels if we are to obtain optimum value for money and efficiency. We will need to keep a continuous and close watch on all external developments and adapt to the changing requirements. In doing this, we will work closely with partners and use all of our contacts to keep ourselves fully informed, including the offices of the local MP.	Rob Bridge – Chief Executive John Dean – Leader of the council	Appropriately skilled and experienced staff Awareness of change Client roles Communication Management Development Use links with local MP to influence and shape the future Use of consultants Working groups	High	Low	8
No comments were made at the clinic.					
Staff/Workforce Failure to recruit or retain staff with key skills. Lack of resources due to	Nick Long – Executive Director	Workforce Development Strategy in progress. Apprentice scheme in progress.	High	Medium	12

<p>high levels of sickness, turnover or industrial action. Failure to develop and train existing staff. Breach of legislation or failure to follow our HR policies. Impact of Council's decision to review the Housing Trust.</p>	<p>Bernard Sarson - Executive Member for Business, Partnerships and Public Health</p>	<p>Training and awareness of HR staff. Head of Service Management Assurance statement. Departmental training plans/CPD. Robust recruitment and selection process. Use of agency staff. New sickness absence monitoring process.</p>			
<p>The re-integration of the Housing service is now complete. Staff turnover still remains high.</p>					
<p>Housing Trust reintegration Merging two organisations enables the exploitation of opportunities for integration, efficiency and value for money. There are however areas where there is potential for failure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to successfully merge cultures, leading to a 'them and us' mentality among staff and therefore losing the benefits of joint working; • Failure to integrate the safety management system; • Failure to have a consistent approach to customer services, including complaints management • Failure to maintain quality of the service to residents/meet statutory obligations as a result of de-motivation/dis-engagement of staff and inconsistent corporate processes; • Failure to implement appropriate governance arrangements, including those for tenant and Member engagement. <p>Consequences: Workforce morale may suffer, there may be reputational damage, increased financial impacts through inefficiencies, tenant discontent and potential for litigation or regulatory intervention.</p>	<p>All Mandy Perkins – Deputy Leader</p>	<p>Joint staff newsletter and employee events to encourage sharing information on services and to embed a shared corporate culture New corporate Customer Services Strategy in development to ensure a consistent approach across all services in the council, including the housing service – this includes managing customer feedback, complaints and Members Enquiries All services benefit from the support of the council's H&S Officer and all staff are required to adhere to a revised joint Health and Safety Policy – the policy is currently under development following collaboration between council and former Trust staff. A new Cabinet Housing Panel will operate from June 2017 – a Members' Housing Training event is taking place in June 2017 to share information the service</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>No comments were made at the clinic.</p>					
<p>Elections Failure to ensure sufficient continuity and handover of electoral expertise between outgoing and incoming Returning Officers.</p>	<p>Nick Long – Executive Director Roger Trigg - Executive Member for Governance, Community Safety, Police and Crime</p>	<p>Experienced staff remain. Project plan. Separate risk register. Training. New Chief Executive has some election experience. Handover process is in place.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>8</p>

	Commissioner and Corporate Property				
Steps have been taken to mitigate the risks flagged.					
<p>Prevent Not properly implementing the government's 'Prevent' agenda to address the risks of radicalisation. Consequences: Staff may lack the awareness to detect signs of radicalisation and the steps to take if they do. This could lead to lack of cross working with partners, delayed referral to 'Channel' and ultimately the propagation of extremist ideologies and the commission of related acts.</p>	<p>Nick Long – Executive Director</p> <p>Bernard Sarson - Executive Member for Business, Partnerships and Public Health</p>	<p>WRAP sessions mandatory for all frontline staff and encouraged for others. In depth training on ideological extremism undertaken by Designated Safeguarding Officers. Nominated lead officer for Prevent. Prevent matters discussed at Safeguarding meetings. Council officers attend Channel meetings where appropriate. Venue manager guidance issued to all council and Finesse venue managers. Council hire and lease agreements contain catch all clauses for 'inappropriate' activities or uses, enabling extremist users to have agreements terminated.</p>	Very High	Medium	15
A county wide Prevent Board is now in operation. WRAP workshops for frontline staff are now in place for the rest of the year and are booking well.					
<p>Corporate Resilience Corporate Resilience Failure to meet the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, including the material failure or inadequacy of plans Failure to respond appropriately to a civil emergency or business continuity incident, including the duty of care to the community and statutory duty to respond with other agencies The effects of an incident on the day to day business of the Council and our ability to maintain "business as usual" Consequences: Financial costs of backlog management, compensation and litigation. Damage to Council reputation, including criticism at any subsequent inquiry, media interest and public criticism. Possible effects on human welfare.</p>	<p>Nick Long – Executive Director</p> <p>Bernard Sarson - Executive Member for Business, Partnerships and Public Health</p>	<p>Embedded partnership working with other agencies WHBC Emergency Plan Crisis Support Team Exercising and training Resilient telecoms, including RAYNET, MTPAS and Resilience Direct WHBC Business Continuity Plan EA Extended Floodline service</p>	Very High	Low	10
Business Impact Analysis is now almost complete and new plan templates have been designed and will be rolled out following Executive Board sign off. The emergency					

plan is under review.					
<p>Health and Safety Health and Safety Failure to maintain an adequate and effective safety management system within the Council, including structures, processes, control measures and allocations of responsibilities and ensuring competence of employees, contractors & service providers and compliance with safety laws and regulations. Consequences: serious injury, work-related ill health or fatalities leading to lost productivity, absence, litigation, external investigation by enforcing authorities, and possibly prosecution.</p>	<p>Nick Long – Executive Director</p> <p>Bernard Sarson - Executive Member for Business, Partnerships and Public Health</p>	<p>Collective Safety Responsibility of Executive Board</p> <p>Map of the extent of the undertaking</p> <p>Communication with Employees</p> <p>Inspection and Auditing</p> <p>Induction and Ongoing Training</p> <p>Periodic Inspection of Premises, Plant and Equipment</p> <p>Risk and Resilience Team with professional competence</p> <p>Risk Assessments & Associated Control Measures</p> <p>Safety Director Role and regular meetings</p> <p>Safety Policy Document</p>	Very High	Medium	15
This risk was reassessed following the reintegration of housing services into the council and we have reviewed the risk score. Work is ongoing to review the safety policies and also to map the extent of the council's undertaking.					
<p>Local Plan Failure to have and deliver a sound Local Plan. Consequences: The local economy achieves less than its full potential; delivery of New Homes Bonus, future Council Tax and Business Rate receipts is adversely affected; investment proposals do not come to fruition; failure to provide sufficient affordable housing; local infrastructure projects may not be delivered; contribution towards funding new and improved local facilities does not happen; unplanned 'hostile' developments occur. Opportunities to bring in external funding to assist the delivery of sustainable growth are lost; Reputational damage.</p>	<p>Nick Long – Executive Director</p> <p>Mandy Perkins – Deputy Leader</p>	<p>Extensive evidence will underpin the development of our Local Plan and inform our proposals</p> <p>Input from CHPP</p> <p>Project plan for the Local Plan is in place</p> <p>Public scrutiny, including a public examination led by an independent Planning Inspector</p> <p>S106/Community Infrastructure Levy is in place</p>	Very High	Medium	15
<p>Full Council agreed on 10 April to submit the Local Plan to Secretary of State for public examination.</p> <p>Officers and Members acknowledge risks that plan does not meet latest objective assessment of housing need (12,000 in plan 'v' 15,000 from latest household projections), but note that there are green belt, environmental and infrastructure constraints that cannot be overcome at this stage. An early review is anticipated to attempt to resolve these issues over coming years. Officers working to sign Memorandum of Understanding with adjoining authorities to agree that need will be considered as part of early reviews.</p> <p>There is nevertheless a risk that the plan will not pass legal or duty to co-operate tests or will not be found sound, as it has not been possible at this stage to find adjoining authorities willing to help meet our housing need.</p>					

<p>Finance Plans for meeting the growing budget gap are not delivered on time to ensure continued sufficient resources to pay for services. Consequences: The Authority runs out of money, external criticism, Government intervention, loss of service to tax payers. Loss of income from fees and charges. Inability to cope with increasing demands on services.</p>	<p>Ka Ng – Executive Director Duncan Bell - Executive Member, Resources</p>	<p>Annual Governance Statement Asset Management Plan Budget Challenge Process Budget preparation process Budgetary control by managers Capital Programme External and internal audit Finance Procedure Rules Financial Information System (Agresso) HRA Business Plan Medium Term Financial Plan Treasury Management Policy Use and Control of Reserves and Balances</p>	<p>Very High</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>The 18/19 budget setting process has already commenced. Savings proposals will be presented to Cabinet at the away day on 19 July 2017.</p>					
<p>Communication Failure to communicate the Council's priorities to its communities and failure to actively manage the Council's reputation. Failure to manage the Council's messages. Failure to mainstream communications and build ownership and consensus across the organisation. Failure to consider communications implications and involve the Communications Team. Consequences; Loss of trust, loss of reputation, unable to manage key council messages and news</p>	<p>Ka Ng – Executive Director Tony Kingsbury - Executive Member for Policy & Culture</p>	<p>Communication plans are agreed for all significant projects/high priority issues Communications Strategy is embedded and reviewed with HoST Communications Team seeks to attend DMTs Media Trained Staff and Members Monitoring system for positive and negative news coverage Review and monitoring of Communications Strategy by Executive Board Skilled and Experienced Communications Team Undertaking perception and satisfaction based surveys Undertaking Perception Based Surveys</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>A fully staffed Communications team which meets the needs of all council services (including the recently reintegrated housing ones) has led to a re-evaluation of this risk. Relations with local media outlets also remain good at this time. This is in spite of some challenging communications issues over 2016-17.</p>					
<p>ICT Failure ICT Failure Critical failure of ICT services, for example due to virus attack, and ransomware virus attacks, which target computers running</p>	<p>Ka Ng – Executive Director Duncan Bell - Executive Member,</p>	<p>Blocking potential virus emails where common themes are detected. Alternative methods to update local and remote databases</p>	<p>Very High</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>15</p>

<p>Microsoft Windows encrypting the personal documents , lack of network capacity, hacking, hardware failure, etc. These attacks are more prevalent and there is a risk of critical IT failure resulting from these. This involves Consequences: Loss of ICT dependent services.</p>	<p>Resources</p>	<p>DR plan ICT - Temporary PSTN connection Infrastructure review to stabilise our virtual environment IT Strategy</p>			
<p>No comments were made at the clinic.</p>					
<p>ICT (Data Protection) The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will replace the current Data Protection Act from May 18. It contains some onerous obligations that will have an immediate impact. As we handle people’s data we are responsible for keeping it safe and are bound by law to comply with data protection regulations.</p>	<p>Ka Ng – Executive Director Duncan Bell - Executive Member, Resources</p>	<p>Establishing policies and procedures. Arranging staff training, implementing protective measures corresponding to the level of risk of their data processing activities. Encrypt as much of our personal and business confidential data as is practicable and on a risk-based approach, paying particular attention to sensitive personal data, mobile devices and data transfers outside the business</p>	<p>Very High</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>Work is underway to prepare an action plan in order to ensure that the Council is fully compliant with the new GDPR requirements.</p>					