

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
AUDIT COMMITTEE 17TH OCTOBER 2016
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE)

RISK MANAGEMENT

1 Executive Summary

1.1 This report brings to Members' attention the current top risks facing the Council, as determined by Managers and entered to the TEN Risk Manager System. The risks are presented in two main areas:

- Strategic risks – showing controls and mitigation plan status. All strategic risks are shown irrespective of risk score as these are the principle risks identified in respect of the Council's promises. They may be applicable to a large number of service areas and be corporately managed.
- Operational risks – the "red" risks (i.e. those scoring above 16), which have been identified within service areas, together with those risks scoring 15, which may move into the "red" category in time.

These risks have been reviewed at the performance clinic in August 2016 and reflect the assessments in place for the half year April to October 2016.

While summary information is presented here, full risk details are available within TEN.

2 Financial Implication(s)

2.1 There are none directly arising from this report, though of course any risk event may have its own financial consequences.

3 Recommendation(s)

3.1 Members are asked to:

- Review the attached current Strategic Risk Register and top operational risks, particularly:
- Note the controls that are assigned and that they are relevant to the risk in question.
- Ensure that mitigation plans are in place where necessary and that the current status is correct.
- Note comments in respect of each risk where shown.

4 Background

- 4.1 Each strategic risk has ownership by a Director and an Executive Member. Operationally, each Manager and Head of Service is responsible for maintaining a register of risks for their service, which could affect the achievement of its stated aims and objectives.
- 4.2 Both strategic and operational risks are re-assessed on a half yearly basis, with any associated mitigation plans or controls being updated on a regular, but as necessary basis. Similarly, expired risks and new risks should be deleted or added respectively on an ongoing basis. Strategic and top operational risks are considered as part of the Performance Clinic process and Directors can discuss the management of their risks at these sessions. A Performance Clinic was held in August 2016, and the resulting report was received at the Cabinet meeting in October 2016.
- 4.3 **Policy Implication(s)**
- 4.4 Risk management is a key component of the Council's governance arrangements and links with the overall management of its performance.

5 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 This report contributes to the overall maintenance of our risk management arrangements to ensure they are current. Risk management also forms an element of the strategic risk of Governance, shown on the attached risk register.

6 Explanation

- 6.1 The Strategic Risk Register is attached at appendix A and the top operational risks are attached at appendix B. Appendix B also includes those risks scored as 15 (i.e. 1 point below the threshold for "red" risks).

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