

ITEM NO: 6

DECISION-MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER		
DATE OF DECISION:	23 rd SEPTEMBER 2009		
REPORT OF:	Carolyn Williamson – Executive Director of Resources		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE

SUMMARY

Within the 'Risk Management and Internal Control' section of the 'Comprehensive Area Assessment ("CAA") - Use of Resources' there is an expectation that the council regularly reviews and updates a register of its corporate and service business risks which:

- link risks to strategic objectives;
- assess risks in respect of likelihood and impact; and
- assign named individuals to lead on actions identified to mitigate each risk.

The Strategic Risk Register has been developed in consultation with the Chief Officer's Management Team ("COMT") and the Resources Board. The Risk Register also takes account of, and is aligned with, a range of key strategic documents including the output from the Directorate Risk Registers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Audit Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Review the Strategic Risk Register (Appendix 1) and be satisfied that the document adequately reflects the key strategic risks facing the Council and/or to highlight any other significant key risks that may need to be considered.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The report is presented to the Audit Committee in its capacity as the member body with responsibility for providing independent assurance to the Standards and Governance Committee on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control and reporting environment.
2. The Audit Committee is also responsible for providing assurance to the Standards and Governance Committee that appropriate action is being taken on risk and internal control related issues identified by the internal and

external auditors and other review and inspection bodies.

3. In addition, the 'Risk Management and Internal Control' section of the 'CAA - Use of Resources' makes reference to the expectation that 'there is a corporate focus on risk management and that Members are responsible for, and engage in, corporate risk management'.

CONSULTATION

- 4 The Strategic Risk Register has been developed in consultation with both COMT and the Resources Board. The latter is responsible for co-ordinating risk management activities through the management of all key business risks and ensuring that risks are appropriately 'owned' and managed.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. No alternative options have been considered.

DETAIL

6. The Strategic Risk Register and associated 'Risk Management Action Plans ("RMAPs") are intended to capture the key strategic risks that may prevent or have a significant adverse affect on the achievement of the Council's key objectives.
- 7 As the risks are of a strategic nature it is not anticipated that they will change significantly from year to year as they are based around the organisational values and priority themes of the council. The content of the associated RMAPs, including the risk scores, mitigating actions etc are however expected to change to reflect the current circumstances.
8. The Strategic Risk Register was reviewed and updated following a 'risk workshop' in March and further discussions at Resources Board meetings. The updated document was further reviewed by COMT in August.
9. The revised Strategic Risk Register also takes into account the output from review of the Directorate Risk Registers (Appendices 2a and 2b). The Directorate Risk Registers are more explicitly linked to the council's six priority themes and are reviewed post completion of the Annual Corporate Directorate Business Planning process to ensure that the risks are aligned with key priorities. Thereafter, the respective Directorate Management Teams are expected to review and update their risk registers on a quarterly basis.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

10. NONE

Revenue

11. NONE

Property

12. No specific property implications have been identified in this report.

Other

13. NONE

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

14. The Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to adopt Good Governance arrangements in respect of the discharge of its functions. The above arrangements are intended to meet those responsibilities.

Other Legal Implications:

15. NONE

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. NONE

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Strategic Risk Register
2.	Summary – Directorate Risk Registers (a) and (b)

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	NONE
2.	

Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.		
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Background documents available for inspection at Internal Audit Office, North Block
Basement, Civic Centre

E-mail: peter.rogers@southampton.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN No: N/A

KEY DECISION N/A

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WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

NOT APPLICABLE