

Cheltenham Borough Council

Cabinet – 1 June 2010

Corporate risk register

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Executive Summary and recommendation

1.1 The issue

- 1.1.1** The public interest report which was issued by KPMG recommended that the corporate risk register be reviewed as a matter of urgency and presented to members. The audit committee at their meeting on 24 March indicated that the register should be presented to cabinet.
- 1.1.2** Officers have reviewed the register and the revised register is attached for cabinet's consideration. Cabinet need to consider whether there are any other risks which would impact upon the council which need to be reflected within the register along with appropriate management actions. Cabinet also need to reflect upon whether the proposed actions suggested in the attached register are appropriate.
- 1.1.3** The register is "owned" by the senior leadership team as it is a management tool which helps managers to run the business effectively, but members need to be aware of the corporate risks which may impact on the council and the decisions it may make.

1.2 I therefore recommend that:

- 1.2.1** **Cabinet consider the register and identify any further corporate risks which may need to be reflected in the risk register and request the Assistant Chief Executive to discuss these with the appropriate officers and update the register accordingly.**
- 1.2.2** **Cabinet consider the actions specified to manage the identified risks and if there are other actions which the cabinet thinks are appropriate request the Assistant Chief Executive to discuss these with the appropriate lead officer and update the register accordingly.**
- 1.2.3** **The risk register is a standing item on the cabinet's agenda every three months, so that it may be reviewed and updated accordingly.**

1.3 Summary of implications

1.3.1 Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Financial risks are identified in the attached risk register.

Where actions have been identified to mitigate risks, then the lead officer will have considered the financial implications as part of their normal management processes.

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1.3.2 Legal

Any relevant legal risks have been considered by service providers as part of the identification and grading of risks for the corporate register

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1.3.3 Other

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1.4 Implications on corporate and community plan priorities

1.4.1 Effective identification and management of risk helps the council make informed decisions and manage its corporate plan priorities.

1.5 Statement on Risk

1.5.1 If the council does not manage its risks appropriately then this can lead to ill-informed decisions.

2. Background

2.1 The council has been undertaking risk management for several years and the risk management policy was updated in 2009. The council had a corporate risk register which it used to manage and monitor risks.

2.2 The recent public interest report highlighted there was a need to revisit the way in which risk management was undertaken and made the following recommendation: "Immediately review all risks on the corporate and service risk registers to ensure that they are complete, appropriate and that the descriptions and risk assessments

continue to reflect the current state. Any high scoring service risks should be transferred to the corporate risk register where appropriate. The updated corporate risk register should be presented to members for consideration.” This recommendation was accepted by the council at its meeting on 22 March 2010.

- 2.3 The senior leadership team have undertaken a review of the corporate risk register and have redefined risks so that they do reflect the current situation. Additional risks have been added which have previously been held at a divisional level. SLT now have a standing item on each agenda which enables emerging and new risks to be discussed. The corporate risk register will be discussed every month so that SLT can satisfy themselves that the risks are being managed effectively and reflect the current situation.
- 2.4 The audit committee at its meeting on 24 March have also approved an updated risk template to be appended to reports so that it is clear whether risks are being managed at a corporate or divisional level. A copy of the risk register will be presented to the audit committee at their meeting in June.
- 2.5 SLT have been requested to ensure that they brief their relevant Cabinet members of both divisional and corporate risks during one to one meetings.
- 2.6 The register at appendix A should have captured the latest position with regards to corporate and high scoring divisional risks but cabinet members may feel that there are other risks that need to be reflected, or identify actions which they would like to see to manage the risks as identified.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The attached risk register has been circulated to SLT and discussed with them.
- 3.2 A draft of the attached risk register was circulated to cabinet members, group leaders and chairs of the overview and scrutiny committee and chair of audit committee in April. A copy was also sent to our external auditors, who although unable to comment on the detail or make a formal response, made some helpful suggestions as to other issues that officers may want to consider and these have been reflected within the attached document.
- 3.3 The audit committee at their meeting on 24 March requested that the risk register be considered by the cabinet.

Appendices

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| 1 | Risk register |
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Background Papers

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