



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

**to
AUDIT COMMITTEE
26 MARCH 2018**

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF CORPORATE RISK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This Committee has a key role in providing independent assurance to the Council on the adequacy of the risk management framework. The Risk Management Policy requires this Committee to undertake a quarterly review of the Corporate Risk Register as assurance that the corporate risks are being managed effectively.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the position as at the end of Quarter 3 (31 December 2017) on the corporate risks included within the Corporate Risk Register 2017 / 18.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members review the information as set out in this report at **APPENDIX 1** and their views and comments are sought;
- (ii) That the risk relating to “Lack of confidence in police partnerships with a view to delivery of public safety particularly in rural areas” is redefined as proposed;
- (iii) That in undertaking this review Members are assured that corporate risk is being managed effectively.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 **APPENDIX 1** to this report provides further information on the individual risks including comments by the “risk owners” outlining the rationale for the current scoring and, where applicable, any movement in the risk scores.
- 3.2 In its role of ensuring that the corporate risks are being managed effectively, the views of this Committee are sought on the current position, any movement in the risks scores and the comments provided by the risk owners.

3.3 Risk re: Lack of confidence in police partnerships with a view to delivery of public safety particularly in rural areas

- 3.3.1 At its meeting in December 2017, the Committee agreed that the risk relating to crime should be redefined as stated above.
- 3.3.2 The aim of the Corporate Risk Register is to identify and define those risks that may prevent Maldon District Council from achieving its goals and objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan and to establish mitigating actions for which we as a Council have control and can progress.
- 3.3.3 One of the objectives under the Corporate Goal “Strengthening communities to be safe active and healthy” is for people to feel safe from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3.4 While the risk as defined above does relate to this objective, whether this clearly describes the actual risk to the Council is questionable and the actions which the Council could take to mitigate are unclear.
- 3.3.5 It is acknowledged that issues such as a lack of visible policing impacts public confidence in the police and the perception of crime, but action that the Council can take to impact the operation and core funding of the police service is minimal.
- 3.3.6 Where the Council may have an impact, however, is endeavouring to influence its Community Safety partners (which include Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue, the National Probation Service and Essex County Council) to address the key areas of public concern.
- 3.3.7 It is suggested, therefore, that the actual risk is if the Council fails to effectively lobby and influence its partners - the consequences of which could include:
- Lack of public confidence in the Council
 - Lack of public confidence in the police
 - Increased fear of crime
 - Loss of business in the District
 - Negative impact on the economy.
- 3.3.8 There are current controls already in place and embedded which go some way to mitigating this risk:
- Maldon District Council (MDC) is taking the lead role in the Maldon Community Safety Partnership (CSP);
 - the Community Protection Team having a visible presence throughout the District and undertaking duties previously done by the police (e.g. issuing fixed penalty notices for certain offences and enforcing speed restrictions);
 - the Overview and Scrutiny Committee acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee which has responsibility for reviewing performance of the police.
- 3.3.9 Additional mitigating actions proposed are:
1. Effective monitoring of delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Action Plan
 2. Identify funding sources/options to supplement policing capacity
 3. Work with Essex police to improve public engagement events *

4. Increase/maximise press releases on the CSP achievements *

(*To reassure businesses and residents that significant preventative work is being undertaken to improve confidence and reduce the fear of crime).

3.3.10 In light of the above, the Committee is requested to consider redefining the risk as:

“Failure to influence the Community Safety partners to address the key areas of public concern and the negative perception of crime”.

3.3.11 The current scoring for this risk is:

Likelihood 3 (Likely); Impact 2 (Moderately Low) – Overall score = 6.

3.3.12 No change to the current score is proposed although as the Community Safety and Protection roles within the Council are discretionary and heavily reliant on funding, if the funding is withdrawn the risk scores would need to be reviewed.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

4.1 The risks included on the Corporate Risk Register have been identified as those which could prevent MDC from achieving the corporate goals stated in the Corporate Plan (2015-19) as updated and approved by Council in April 2017. By identifying these, assessing the current controls in place and determining what further actions need to be taken to mitigate the risks as much as possible, the Council’s desired outcomes should be achieved.

5. IMPLICATIONS

(i) **Impact on Customers** – None.

(ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.

(iii) **Impact on Risk** - Management of risk is fundamental to the sound operation of the Council. Failure to manage risk could have a significant impact on the Council’s ability to correctly define its policies and strategies or deliver against its objectives.

The implementation and operation of the risk management framework will minimise risks and thus mitigate any potential strategic, operational, reputational or regulatory consequences.

Failure to manage risk would also mean that the Council might face censure by its external auditors or the potential for legal proceedings in the event of breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act or similar legislation.

(iv) **Impact on Resources (financial and human)** - All risk management activity is undertaken within existing and planned budgets.

(v) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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