

REPORT TO: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 14 July 2009
Report of: Internal Audit Manager
Subject/Title: Risk Management and Business Continuity Strategies

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 In order to take risk management forward and compile the Corporate Strategic risk register, a risk management strategy has been produced. This includes a suggested framework and summarises roles and responsibilities. A business continuity strategy is also included.
- 1.2 The Governance and Constitution Committee has been consulted on the strategy and appendices and resolved to recommend the strategy for Cabinet approval. A discussion took place about member involvement in the Corporate Risk Management group (Appendix A) and the Committee felt that a member should be present on the Corporate Risk Management group.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the Risk Management and Business Continuity Strategies (incl Appendices).
- 2.2 To delegate responsibility for liaison with the Corporate Risk Management Group to the portfolio holder for Performance and Capacity.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Risk management is a fundamental element of corporate governance, which is integral to and must be incorporated into all areas of the Council's activities - strategic, operational, programmes, projects and partnerships. Business Continuity Management, aimed at ensuring the Council is a resilient organisation, capable of delivering its critical services regardless of any unforeseen event, is an essential element of risk management, and should be managed within the risk management framework.

Appendix 1 (Risk Management Strategy) and **Appendix 2** (Business Continuity Strategy) outline the proposed approach to managing risk and business continuity within Cheshire East Borough Council. A key part of both strategies is a high degree of commitment to and clearly defined

roles and responsibilities for effective risk management at all levels and across all activities within the organisation. **Appendix A** outlines the proposed risk management framework, with the Corporate Risk Management Group playing a pivotal role in the coordination and management of risks within the Council. **Appendix B** provides more detail about the roles and responsibilities of individual groups.

- 3.2** Services are currently in the process of developing Service Plans and Service (Operational) Risk Registers and these are due to be completed and agreed by the end of June 2009.

It is proposed that the Strategic Risk Register is developed from these Service Risk Registers and coordinated by the Corporate Risk Management Group, to be agreed by all relevant stakeholders by 31st July, 2009.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 n/a

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health**

- 6.1 The risk management strategy and its implementation is an integral part of the management of the authority and its mechanisms to deliver its objectives and outcomes. Included in this are key policy areas, corporate priorities, service delivery objectives and transformation projects. A properly implemented strategy and framework for risk management is a supporting system to the overall achievements of the Council.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 None

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 No specific legal implications

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The report relates to overall risk management.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 N/a

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 N/a

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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