

9. Strategic Risk Register

Purpose of report

1. To consider the revised Strategic Risk Register and recommend for approval by the Authority.
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Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Committee recommends the revised Strategic Risk Register for approval by the Authority.

Introduction and Background

2. Through the Fire Authority's Governance arrangements a systematic strategy, framework and processes to manage risk is in place. A statement and assessment of the effectiveness of these arrangements is published regularly. Risk Management is a key objective and part of the Fire and Rescue Service.

Strategic Risk Register

3. The overall objective of the Strategic Risk Register is to ensure that the Authority identifies Strategic risks and applies the most cost effective control mechanisms to manage those risks thus ensuring they are eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level and that systems are in place to monitor and report. The process begins with an initial assessment of risk and preparation of inherent risk maps. The Strategic Risk Register is then prepared to identify controls which mitigate the inherent risk. The Strategic Residual Risk map shows the revised risk assessment as a result of the action taken.
4. The reviewed and updated Strategic Risk Register was shared with Mr Peter Watts, the Risk Management Member Champion and Group Leaders for their input on 18 October 2010, advised by Principal Officers.
5. The overall responsibility for ensuring risks are managed effectively lies with the Authority as advised by the Service. The live Strategic Risk Register outlines to Members the risk scoring for both likelihood and impact. A number of changes are recommended to the document, which reflects the National, Regional and Local perspective. Both Members and Officers recommend that the Register continues to be split into Strategic, Operational, Regulatory, Financial and Reputation risks. A new risk category has been added this year to take account of Environmental risk.
6. The consultation undertaken acknowledged that due to the current economic climate there is potential for some key suppliers to encounter difficulties within the market place, which may have an impact on the Service. Consequently, this has led to an increase in controls in the Financial Risk already identified. Additional controls continue for financial investment (Bank of England only) via our Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Worcestershire County Council.

7. The Strategic Risk Register reflects the updated National Risk Register which is intended to capture the range of emergencies that may have a major impact on all, or significant parts of, the UK. The National Register drives the Community Risk Register held by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and is recognised in the Service's live Strategic Register.
8. Based upon the revised scores it is pleasing to report the direction of travel for Strategic Risk for 2009/10 is moving downwards, which is a credit to the hard work that has taken place across the Service in strengthening key control measures where necessary. These strengths are demonstrated in the successful achievement of Corporate, Strategic and Operational objectives and using risk management to identify opportunities. Whilst pursuing those objectives and embedding corporate risk, it is now an integral component of effective Corporate Governance. In detail, 10 items on the Strategic Risk register have reduced scores and only two items have seen the risk score revised upwards, namely unavailability of a key item of equipment (No 13) and change in economic and/or political environment causing a reduction in real terms of grants and/or other income (No 23).

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Yes	Para. 8

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	Y	

Additional Considerations

9. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	No	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	Para. 8
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	Yes	Para. 9
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No	

Conclusion/Summary

10. The Authority's live Strategic Risk Register will be monitored and updated on an ongoing basis with exception reporting to Principal Management Officers and will be formally reported to Members annually, with significant changes being reported to the Audit Committee in their quarterly risk update.
11. Following approval from Members, the information from the Strategic Risk Register will be incorporated into Corporate Planning, highlighting any resilience issues through the management of Business Continuity in compliance with the Civil Contingencies Act (2004).

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Revised Strategic Risk Register

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