

12. Strategic Risk Register

Purpose of report

1. To approve the revised Strategic Risk Register.

Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Authority approves the revised Strategic Risk Register.

Background

2. The Fire and Rescue Authority's Governance arrangements require a systematic strategy, framework and processes to manage risk; a statement and assessment of the effectiveness of these arrangements must be published regularly. Risk Management remains a key objective in Fire and Rescue Service Planning and is in compliance with the Authority's Risk Management Strategy.
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, to ensure that 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.

Strategic Risk Register

4. The annual consultation of the live Strategic Risk Register took place on 2 November 2009 with Group Leaders 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 risk scoring for both likelihood and impact. A number of changes are recommended to the document to reflect a 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. 2008 changes are highlighted in the attached document. A new risk category has been added this year to take account of Environmental risk
6. The consultation acknowledged that due to the current economic climate there is potential for some key suppliers to encounter difficulties within the marketplace, 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 has been designed to complement the Community Risk Register held by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and is fully recognised in the Service's live Strategic Register.
8. Based upon the revised scores it is pleasing to report the direction 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.

Conclusion/Summary

9. The Authority's live Strategic Risk Register will be monitored and updated on an ongoing basis with exception reporting to the Principal Management Team and will be formally reported to Members annually, with significant changes being reported to the Audit Committee in their quarterly risk update.
10. 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.

Corporate Considerations

11. A Business Impact Analysis form is attached at Appendix 1 to measure and address the proposals contained in this report. The form contains information on the potential resource implications, legal issues, strategic policy links, equality/ethical issues and risk management implications.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Business Impact Assessment Form

Appendix 2 – Revised Strategic Risk Register

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