

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
29 MARCH 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member responsible:	Councillor Seaton, Resources Portfolio Holder	
Committee Member responsible:	Councillor M Dalton, Chair of Audit Committee	
Contact Officer(s):	Stuart Hamilton, Resilience Services Manager	☎ 207207

RISK MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Stuart Hamilton, Resilience Services Manager	Deadline date : N/A
1. The Committee is asked to receive, consider, and endorse the revised risk management strategy.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Audit Committee as a routine planned report on risk management in accordance with the agreed committee work programme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the council's risk management strategy.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW

- 4.1 The Audit Committee received and agreed the new Risk Management and Business Continuity Policy on 7 September 2009 and accepted their role within it, of: "monitoring and supporting the council's risk management arrangements".
- 4.2 The Strategic Risk Register is in the process of being reviewed, in conjunction with Directors and Strategic Improvement. A full update on current strategic risks should be available in June.

- 4.3 The strategy has been reviewed and updated to reflect progress and practical changes. The latest version is in the Audit Committee Handbook (issued in Audit Committee papers 8 February 2010). Key changes are as follows:
- Revised self-assessment scores and new target scores.
 - Change in risk matrix review periods from 1, 3 and 12 months to 3, 6 and 12 months. It is felt that a 1 month review date is impracticable: in the event of a significant risk, a 1 month (or less) review date can be imposed if necessary.
- 4.4 Operational risk assessment process has assisted the review and update of the business continuity plans. It is also providing a useful profile of areas of high risk, which can be escalated to the strategic registers where necessary.
- 4.5 Key Ongoing issues for 2010 are:
- Completion of operational risk profile;
 - Revision of Service and Corporate Business Continuity plans;
 - Review of Strategic (corporate) risk register;
 - Coordination of Strategic and Departmental risk registers;
 - Regular risk “conversations” within and between services at all levels;
 - Updates on Insite, web and E-Learning;
 - Strategic issues e.g. introducing and embedding RM / BCM into procurement processes; induction briefings; business plans etc

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Audit Committee note and comment on the revised strategy

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Risk management is a key component of the council’s corporate governance framework which will take time to review and embed effectively.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

8. IMPLICATIONS

The identification of risks and the proper management of those risks will ensure that:

- the council’s environmental policies and ambitions can be met;
- the council is able to mitigate against potential financial losses, litigation claims and reputational damage; and
- the council is able to effectively deliver the strategic priorities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Peterborough City Council Risk Management and Business Continuity Policy and Strategy.