

Report to the Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report Reference: FPM-006-2009/10.

Date of meeting: 5 October 2009.

Portfolio: Performance Management.

Subject: Corporate Risk Register.

Responsible Officer: Bob Palmer (01992 564279).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To confirm the scoring of the two new risks and the change to the scoring of an existing risk; and**
- (2) To agree the addition of the two new risks to the Corporate Risk Register.**

Executive Summary:

The last meeting of this Committee on 15 June 2009 received an update to the Corporate Risk Register. As part of the debate on the Risk Register, Members requested the addition of a new risk covering the provision of pitches within the District for gypsies and travellers.

In addition to this the Risk Management Group (RMG) felt the insertion of a new risk covering the threat of a reduction in the Council's grant support was appropriate.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

It is essential that the Corporate Risk Register is regularly reviewed and kept upto date. The decisions are a necessary part of this well-established process.

Other Options for Action:

Members may not agree with the suggested scores and could ask for the risks to be rated differently. Members may not agree with the proposed action plans and may consider alternative actions to be necessary.

Report:

1. At the meeting of this Committee on 15 June 2009 an updated version of the Corporate Risk Register was considered and approved. One of the issues considered by the Committee was whether there were any new risks that were not on the Corporate Risk Register. Members suggested that an additional risk regarding the provision of pitches within the district for gypsies and travellers should be considered by officers and brought back to this meeting for consideration.

2. The risk around the provision of pitches had been included in the Planning Service Risk Register for sometime and was being actively monitored by both the senior management in Planning and the Corporate Executive Forum. The wording used on the Service Risk Register was considered and amended by the RMG on 1 September. This new risk is shown

as risk number 29 on Appendix 1, with the proposed action plan on Appendix 2. An action plan is necessary as the proposed score for the risk is B2 (high likelihood, critical impact).

3. At their meeting on 1 September the RMG considered the recent debate on the state of the public finances and the possibility of substantial reductions in grant funding for local authorities in the next Comprehensive Spending Review. This risk is shown as risk number 30 on Appendix 1, with the proposed action plan on Appendix 2. An action plan is necessary as the proposed score for the risk is B2 (high likelihood, critical impact).

4. The RMG also considered the current scoring of the other risks on the register and felt that most were correct. However, it was felt that the likelihood given to risk 25 "Management capacity in Planning" should be reduced from C to D (significant to low). This risk was placed on the register due to concerns about the Planning and Economic Directorate having only one assistant director in post instead of three. These concerns have been reduced by the filling of these vacancies, although as gaps still remain in the overall structure it was felt that the risk should remain above the tolerance line and continue to be monitored.

5. On 9 September the Corporate Governance Group (CGG) considered the recommendations from the RMG and agreed the two new risks and their related action plans. The Corporate Governance Group also agreed with the proposed change to the scoring of risk 25.

6. The descriptions of the new risks are attached as Appendix 1 and the proposed action plans for the management of the risks as Appendix 2. Members are asked to confirm both the scoring of the risks and that the details and action plans set out in the appendices should be included in the Corporate Risk Register.

Resource Implications:

No additional resource requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

No legal implications. The Corporate Risk Register is an important part of the Council's overall governance arrangements and that is why this Committee considers it on a regular basis.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

None.

Consultation Undertaken:

The Corporate Governance Group approved the proposed additions.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:

No equalities impacts.

If the Corporate Risk Register was not regularly reviewed and updated a risk that threatened the achievement of corporate objectives might either not be managed or be managed inappropriately.