

 <b>EXECUTIVE</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>8</b>
<b>Title</b>	Significant Business Risk Register	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Richard Barr Tel: (01926) 456815 E Mail: richard.barr@warwickdc.gov.uk	
<b>Service Area</b>	Finance	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Minutes of Senior Management Team and emails to Audit & Risk Manager from Service Area Managers.	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	13 June 2011	Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	13 June 2011	Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance	13 June 2011	As S151 Officer
Portfolio Holder	13 June 2011	Councillor Doody
Consultation Undertaken		
Not applicable		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

## 1 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the latest version of the Significant Business Risk Register.

## 2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Executive should review the Significant Business Risk Register attached at Appendix 1 and consider if any further actions should be taken.

## 3 **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To assist members fulfil their role in overseeing the organisation's risk management framework (see section 7, below).
- 3.2 The Significant Business Risk Register contains the significant strategic and corporate risks that the Council faces. Those risks that can be attached to specific services are set out in the operational risk registers that each service maintains.

## 4 **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 This report is not concerned with recommending a particular option in preference to others so this section is not applicable.

## 5 **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 Although there are no direct budgetary implications arising from this report, risk management performs a key role in corporate governance including that of the Budgetary Framework. An effective control framework ensures that the Authority manages its resources and achieves its objectives economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 5.2 The risk register sets out when the realisation of risks might have financial consequences. One of the criteria for severity is based on the financial impact.

## 6 **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The register is based on the Council's corporate priorities and key strategic projects that reflect the Corporate Strategy.

## 7 **RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 In its management paper "Worth the risk: improving risk management in local government", the Audit Commission sets out clearly the responsibilities of members and officers:

"Members need to determine within existing and new leadership structures how they will plan and monitor the council's risk management arrangements. They should:

- decide on the structure through which risk management will be led and monitored;

- consider appointing a particular group or committee, such as an audit committee, to oversee risk management and to provide a focus for the process;
- agree an implementation strategy;
- approve the council's policy on risk (including the degree to which the council is willing to accept risk);
- agree the list of most significant risks;
- receive reports on risk management and internal control – officers should report at least annually, with possibly interim reporting on a quarterly basis;
- commission and review an annual assessment of effectiveness: and
- approve the public disclosure of the outcome of this annual assessment, including publishing it in an appropriate manner.

The role of senior officers is to implement the risk management policy agreed by members.

It is important that the chief executive is the clear figurehead for implementing the risk management process by making a clear and public personal commitment to making it work. However, it is unlikely that the chief executive will have the time to lead in practice and, as part of the planning process, the person best placed to lead the risk management implementation and improvement process should be identified and appointed to carry out this task. Other people throughout the organisation should also be tasked with taking clear responsibility for appropriate aspects of risk management in their area of responsibility."

## 8. **LATEST RISK REGISTER**

- 8.1 The Council has had for several years a risk register that is intended to consider all risks to the Council's operations, key priorities, and major projects. This has been known as the Corporate and Strategic Risk Register. Individual services also have their own risk registers.
- 8.2 The Register has recently been overhauled by the Senior Management Team (SMT) to bring it into line with current thinking on organisational risk registers.
- 8.3 The new Register is set out as Appendix 1 to this report. It has been given a new title of Significant Business Risk Register that more accurately reflects its purpose.
- 8.4 The methodology upon which risks are assessed has also been revised. This is set out as Appendix 2.
- 8.5 In keeping with members' overall responsibilities for managing risk, the Executive is required to review the Significant Business Risk Register.
- 8.6 In the past, this review was performed quarterly. However, whilst a revamp of the Register has been taking place this process has not been followed for a while.

- 8.7 In line with the traditional risk matrix approach, greater concern should be focused on those risks plotted towards the top, right hand (north-east) corner of the matrix whilst the converse is true for those risks plotted towards the bottom, left hand (south-west) corner of the matrix. If the matrix were in colour, the latter risks would be within the area shaded red, whilst the latter set of risks would be within the area shaded green; the mid-range would be shown as yellow.
- 8.8 The scoring criteria for the risk register are judgemental and are based on the likelihood of something occurring, and the impact that might have. Appendix 2 sets out the guidelines that are applied.