

**REPORT TO:** Business Efficiency Board  
**DATE:** 3 June 2015  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Policy and Resources  
**PORTFOLIO:** Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Strategic Risk Register 2015/16  
**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To seek the Board's views and comments on a revised Strategic Risk Register that has been developed for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- (1) the Board receives the comments on the revised register;**
- (2) if satisfied, approves its adoption; and**
- (3) receives a progress report against the actions in the plan in six months' time.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In accordance with the Council's Risk Management Policy (previously approved by this Board) an annual review of the Council's Corporate Risk Register takes place. This has been undertaken by the Council's Management Team and is brought to this Board for Members' consideration.

3.2 The Corporate Risk Register is only one element of the Council's overall approach to the management of risk. Each Directorate produces its own risk register and progress on mitigating actions within those registers is reported upon, as part of the performance management process. Also, major projects that the Council is involved in have their own risk registers. The Operational Director for Finance produces a budget risk register, which is regularly reviewed by Management Team. Similarly, a risk register exists to support the delivery of the Council's Efficiency Programme. In addition, reports to Members always have a section of risk within them.

3.3 In considering the revised register it is important to highlight to the Board some of the revised scores which, in particular, relate to the Council's ability to continue to deliver its services to the required or expected level.

3.4 Since the previous Coalition Government's austerity measures commenced, the Council has been working hard to mitigate the effects of those budget reductions on the community by:

- delivery on its Efficiency Programme;
- focusing on its Procurement process;
- working with and sharing services with other authorities;
- pooling budgets
- reducing the number of managers;
- reducing staff numbers and terms and conditions;
- increasing income.

3.5 However, it is felt that the Council's ability to reduce the impact of budget reductions on the quality of frontline services through these initiatives is reaching its conclusion. Therefore, the scores in the risk register which relate to the impact of budget reductions do not show any significant change after the mitigating actions have been taken. What this demonstrates is a belief that subsequent grant reductions will now be felt more acutely on the community and the services it receives. It would be wrong to suggest that through the Council's mitigating actions there will be no pain felt by those who rely on the Council's services. Whilst every effort will continue to be made to protect those most vulnerable in the community and those essential frontline services, given the magnitude of the grant reductions and the aggregation of previous grant losses, this will become more and more difficult to achieve.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Policy.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The Risk Register plays a vital part in the Council's governance arrangements in ensuring it delivers on its priorities.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

The Risk Register plays a vital part in the Council's governance arrangements in ensuring it delivers on its priorities.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The Risk Register plays a vital part in the Council's governance arrangements in ensuring it delivers on its priorities.

#### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The Risk Register plays a vital part in the Council's governance arrangements in ensuring it delivers on its priorities.

#### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The Risk Register plays a vital part in the Council's governance arrangements in ensuring it delivers on its priorities.

### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The regular review of the Council's various risk registers ensures that, as far as possible, the Council identifies and manages its strategic risks.

### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.