

Colchester Borough Council – Corporate Strategic Risk Register
January 2017 – March 2017

Appendix 1

1. AMBITION											
Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequences	Actions	Owner	Timing
		Current			Previous						
		P	I	O	P	I	O				
1a	In a period of public sector resource reductions the ability to have ambition and to deliver on that ambition.	3	2	6				Major changes needed to the town would not be delivered thus affecting the quality of life of its residents and businesses. Major downturn in public sector resourcing over the next few years will hamper the speed of delivery across the services provided. Poorer external assessments by independent agencies and loss of Council reputation. The Borough Council loses its status and influencing ability at sub-regional, regional and national levels.	Implement a regular reporting mechanism to SMT that includes defined performance criteria.	Executive Director	March 2017
1b	Unrealistic internal and external expectations on the speed of delivery.	3	3	9					Produce an IT development strategy that supports the next stage of our transformation and outcomes. This should be reviewed and reported to PMB on a regular basis.	Assistant Chief Executive	March 2017
1c	The Council is unable to effectively influence changes in the Borough economy.	3	4	12							
1d	Over reliance on a limited number of people limits ability to deliver our ambition.	3	3	9					Officers with more commercial skills have been appointed and others can learn from their experiences together with a set of commercial skills training being implemented across the organisation to re-skill officers for the new ways of working. The Trading Board and the Cabinet need to continue to enhance their commercial understanding in order to take the opportunities offered by a more commercial approach.	Strategic Director	March 2017
1f	The organisation fails to recognise the tensions between aspirations and statutory functions.	3	3	9							

2. CUSTOMERS											
Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequences	Actions	Owner	Timing
		Current			Previous						
		P	I	O	P	I	O				
2a	The increasing expectations of our customers, set alongside the financial constraints will create challenges to service delivery, our channel shift ambitions and the reputation of the authority.	4	3	12				The Authority fails to deliver the standards of service and delivery which our customers expect, especially in relation to self-service and the reliance on IT capabilities.	An engagement and consultation programme is put in place, to ensure customers are able to inform service priorities and delivery and to secure the capability amongst our customers to drive our channel shift program. This will be evidenced by reporting the pattern of usage of the routes used by customers and savings achieved.	Executive Director	March 2017
2b	The expectation remains that the Council will step in to deliver services when other providers either fail or reduce service provision	3	3	9				The Council suffers from a loss of reputation as customers' expectations are not met. There is increased demand on existing services leading to a reduction in standards of delivery.	The UCC environment, creating a single point of contact for our customers, is now in place and a performance framework for customer standards is being developed and will be monitored to ensure delivery. A full lessons learned exercise will be conducted.	Executive Director	March 2017
2c	Impact of Welfare Reform will pose challenges to our resources in responding to rising customer need.	2	4	8				The Council fails to support our most vulnerable residents leading to an increase in crisis intervention.			

3. PEOPLE											
Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequence	Actions	Owner	Timing
		Current			Previous						
		P	I	o	P	I	O				
3a	Unable to compete with the private sector in the recruitment (and retention) of staff with key marketable skills	4	3	12				Decline in service performance Disengaged and demotivated staff Efficiency and productivity reduction	Communicate job opportunities and benefits of working at CBC clearly and imaginatively. Review opportunities for to do things differently for key posts including considering the value of trading companies.	Assistant Chief Executive Assistant Chief Executive	Ongoing March 2017
3c	Staff motivation declines with an impact on service delivery, our capacity to make changes and implementation of budget efficiencies	3	4	12				Inability to meet changing requirements and needs Customer perceptions decline as we deliver less Loss of key staff	Implement the internal communications strategy for staff allowing for staff to feed back. Agree and implement an action plan for the new People Strategy; reviewing performance regularly. Implement a formal learning and development strategy that includes financial considerations and business behaviours, and explores training alternatives.	Assistant Chief Executive Assistant Chief Executive Assistant Chief Executive	March 2017 March 2017 March 2017

4. HORIZON SCANNING

Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequence	Actions	Owner	Timing
		Current			Previous						
		P	I	o	P	I	O				
4a	To continuously assess future challenges to ensure Council is fit for future purpose	2	4	8				If not properly managed then either the Council will lose the opportunity to develop further or will have enforced changes to service delivery. Adverse impact on local residents / resources. Missed opportunities to boost local economy. Conflict between Council / Government agendas. Reduction in levels of service provision and potential withdrawal of services.	Ensure organisational readiness to respond to external challenges through the organisational goals – Customer, Business, Culture	Executive Director	March 2017
4b	Not taking or creating opportunities to maximise the efficient delivery of services through shared provision, partnerships or commercial delivery	4	3	12					Ensure there are regular reports to the Trading Board providing updates on delivery options including assessing the future potential for the Council to deliver commercial income.	Strategic Director	March 2017
4c	Failure by the Council to spot / influence at an early stage the direction of Central Government policies / new legislation.	3	3	9					Review and report the Organisational Development Strategy	Assistant Chief Executive	March 2017
4d	Potential impact of future central government decisions to reduce public funding, including that of our partners	5	4	20					The budget situation is constantly reviewed, incl impact of decisions from central government. Additional actions and areas for spending reviews are being identified.	Chief Operating Officer	March 2017
4e	The outcome of the referendum to leave the European Union is leading to a number of uncertainties. At the moment it is unclear how this will impact on the Council, our communities and businesses. However, it does raise a potential set of risks that will need to be monitored.	5	3	15					Continue to monitor the progress of the exit from the EU, ensuring that there is a formal process for reporting potential impacts.		March 2017

5. PARTNERSHIPS											
Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequence	Actions	Owner	Timing
		Current			Previous						
		P	I	O	P	I	O				
5a	Failure or inappropriate performance management of one or more strategic partnerships or key contracts E.g. Haven Gateway, LEP, Health, CAPITA, CBH	4	4	16				The cost of service delivery is increased however quality decreases. Failure to deliver key priorities. Reputational and financial loss by the Authority.	Set an assessment process for proposed strategic partnerships (to ensure that they will satisfy the Council's objectives) that needs to be signed off by EMT before commitment to new partnerships is made.	Executive Director	March 2017
5b	Change of direction / policy within key partner organisations and they revise input / withdraw from projects.	4	3	12				Failure to deliver expected outcomes through partnerships Requirement to repay external funding granted to partnership – taking on the liabilities of the 'withdrawn' partner.	Set a formal relationship / performance review process to be used by all partnerships and ensure results are reported to senior management.	Executive Director	March 2017
5c	Potential inability to agree shared outcomes/ agendas with partners and the Council's ability to influence partner's performance.	3	4	12				External assessment of the Councils partnerships are critical and score poorly.			
5d	Working across the partners for delivery of the garden settlements project encounters delay. The partners - Colchester BC, Tendring DC, Braintree DC, Essex CC and the landowners fail to agree objectives and actions	2	4	8				The project fails to deliver its objectives leading to increased costs as there would be delays in local plan progress and loss of reputation, as well as the long term effect on ability to generate investment into the area and meet housing and employment needs.	There is a joint shadow delivery Board that allows the Authorities to co-ordinate their actions and resolve issues.	Strategic Director	March 2017

6. ASSETS & RESOURCES											
Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequence	Actions	Owner	Timing
		Current			Previous						
		P	I	O	P	I	O				
6a	Failure to protect public funds and resources – ineffective probity / monitoring systems	3	4	12				Service delivery failure Financial and reputational loss by the Authority Personal liability of Officers and Members. Legal actions against the Council Loss of stakeholder confidence in the Borough Inability to sustain costs	Develop a formal process to manage the assurance systems that form the internal control environment, including Internal Audit, Risk Management, Budget process, Corporate Governance and performance management. This must be reported to senior officers and members on a regular basis to ensure that it is fully embedded	Chief Operating Officer	March 2017
6b	Risk that Asset Management is not fully linked to strategic priorities and not supported by appropriate resources	3	4	12				Failure to deliver a balanced budget as planned. A need to use balances / reserves or to adapt financial plans to deal with impact of changes.	Review the budget monitoring process to ensure it reflects the structure and co-ordinates finances across the whole Council not just individual service areas.	Chief Operating Officer	Regular reporting to PMB. & Governance Review September 2016
								Required to use Reserves & Resources to fund capital priorities Severe impact on cash-flow leading to negative effect on performance targets	Ensure the continued development of the Revolving Investment Fund (RIF) - a sub-committee of Cabinet which has been created to link asset management to the strategic priorities and ensure that assets are used to their full commercial potential.	Strategic Director	March 2017

Continued.

6. ASSETS & RESOURCES											
Specific Risks		SCORE						Consequence	Actions	Owner	Timing
6c	Inability to deliver the budget strategy as planned.	3	4	12	4	4	16		Develop the annual budget strategy to ensure it has controls built in to be able to respond to changes in the strategic objectives and includes sensitivity analysis to consider the impact of potential changes to external funding or other incomes streams. Consider impact of loss or reduction in key income areas as part of budget strategy / budget plans.	Chief Operating Officer	Annual exercise. Council approves budget in Feb annually
6d	Failure to set aside sufficient capital funds for strategic priorities	3	4	12					Implement a regular review process for the medium term financial outlook, capital programme and HRA business plan processes to ensure they are kept up to date and realistic.	Chief Operating Officer	MTFS is part of the budget strategy & considered during the process. Capital programme regularly reported to Governance Cttee. Review March 2017
6e	Significant reliance on our ICT presents challenges in maintaining customer service in the event of service interruptions.	2	5	10					Changes to be planned to ensure customer service is maintained	Assistant Chief Executive	Next review March 2017
6f	Increasing demands around information security create a risk in the event that security breaches occur	2	5	10					Review the IT security policies to ensure that they are fit for purpose and implement a training program for all staff.	Assistant Chief Executive	Next review March 2017

SCORE DEFINITIONS	1 Very Low	2 Low	3 Medium	4 High	5 Very High
Impact	Insignificant effect on delivery of services or achievement of Strategic Vision & Corporate Objectives.	Minor interruption to service delivery or minimal effect on Corporate Objectives.	Moderate interruption to overall service delivery/effect on Corporate Objectives or failure of an individual service.	Major interruption to overall service delivery or severe effect on Corporate Objectives.	Inability to provide services or failure to meet Corporate Objectives
Probability	10% May happen – unlikely	10 -25% Possible	26 – 50% Could easily happen	51 – 75% Very likely to happen	Over 75% Consider as certain

Risks Removed

1e The resource implications, including ICT, staffing and financial, of the UCC FSR are greater than anticipated. Removed July 15.

3b Failure to sustain adequate resource to support training and development because of the financial situation. Removed July 15.

3d Failure to provide effective and visible political and managerial leadership. Removed July 15