

**Extract from the minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 10 October 2018**

**295. 2017/18 Year End Review of Risk Management**

The Assistant Director, Policy and Corporate, submitted a report a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Councillor Willetts attended and with the consent of the Chairman, addressed the Cabinet. Whilst the risk assessment work was an important piece of work and it was vital that such a wider assessment of issues and risks facing the Council was undertaken, the final assessment of and categorisation of the risks facing the Council had been skewed by political considerations. In terms of identified risk around future central government decisions, the programmes of the main political parties were well known and therefore there was little risk arising. The impact of Brexit and the delivery risks of Garden Communities to the Council were being overstated for political purposes, and the risks around recruitment of staff could be managed through more flexible recruitment processes.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Resources, responded and highlighted that were serious risks around central government decisions, for instance on decisions on funding or through ongoing uncertainty on final decisions, such as on business rates. Brexit was the major risk facing the Government and those risks also applied to local government. For instance it could have a significant impact on housing and fuel prices. Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, and Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture, stressed the potential risks caused by Brexit and highlighted the work of the LGA in highlighting these risks and advising on how they could be mitigated.

Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Resources, introduced the report and stressed the purpose and value of the Risk Register and the Risk Management Strategy. The approach to risk was exactly what would be expected of an organisation with significant budgets and responsibilities.

*RESOLVED* that:-

- (a) The Council's progress and performance in managing risk during the period April 2017 to March 2018 be noted.
- (b) The proposed Risk Management Strategy for 2018/19 be approved.

*RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL* that the Risk Management Strategy 2018/19 be adopted and included in the Council's Policy Framework.

*REASONS*

Cabinet has overall ownership of the risk management process and is responsible for endorsing its strategic direction. Therefore the risk management strategy states that Cabinet should receive an annual report on progress and should formally agree any amendments to the strategy itself.

During the year progress reports are presented to the Governance and Audit Committee, detailing work undertaken and current issues. This report was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 4 September 2018, where they approved its referral to this meeting.

The Risk Management Strategy is one of the key corporate governance documents that supports the Constitution of the Council, and forms part of the Policy Framework. Accordingly any amendments have to be approved by Full Council.

#### *ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS*

No alternative options were presented to the Cabinet.

*A copy of the draft Risk Management Strategy is at pages 43-54 of the agenda.*