



South Downs

National Park Authority

Agenda Item 15
Report PRI9/20-16

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	26 September 2019
By	Head of Governance
Title of Report (Decision)	Corporate Risk Register & Risk Management Policy

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note the Corporate Risk Register as at September 2019**
- 2) Agree the “Risk Management Policy and Guidance” document as set out appendix 3**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include “... to ensure the robustness of risk management and performance management arrangements; and to agree the Internal Audit Plan and Annual Report and receive progress and other relevant internal audit reports.”
- 1.2 The Corporate Risk Register is reported to each meeting of the Committee. From June 2016 the corporate risk register has been monitored by the organisation’s Operational Management Team on a monthly basis and issues escalated to SMT as required.
- 1.3 In addition to commenting on and noting the corporate risk register Members are asked to agree the revised risk management policy and guidance document as set out at appendix 3 which will be used to guide the ongoing management of risk within the Authority.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 Corporate Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved. It includes the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which public bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to and engage with their partners, communities and citizens.
- 2.2 Risk management is a key aspect of corporate governance and is one of the 7 principles in the ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)’ developed by Cipfa and SOLACE¹ to help public bodies make open, transparent and better informed decisions that take full account of risk and opportunities.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 **Appendix 2** shows the risk register in a graphical way which allows Members to see, at a glance, the likelihood and impact of risks. Explanatory information is provided at **Appendix I** to this report.
- 3.2 Significant changes to the Risk Register since it was last considered by the committee are:
 - Risk17 in relation to Brexit transition has been reviewed following comments from members at the last meeting of the Committee. Whilst the score of this risk has not

¹ Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives & Senior Managers

been amended the mitigations have been updated and the direction of travel amended to reflect the increased likelihood of a no deal Brexit.

- Risk 23 – this is a new risk in relation to the acquisition of Seven Sisters Country Park. This risk relates to the potential impact on the wider work of the Authority and is in addition to the project risk register which is used in the day to day management of the project.
- Risk 24 – This is a new risk related to major infrastructure projects and the risk of reputational damage or legal challenge relating to the launching of, or failure to launch a challenge related to an emerging major infrastructure project.
- Risk 6 – Local plan – whilst it was anticipated that this risk could have been removed from the risk register, this has been retained until the conclusion of the challenge that has been submitted to the Local Plan

3.3 Updates to mitigations and actions, where identified, across all risks are documented in **Appendix 2** to this report.

4. Updated Risk Management Policy and Guidance

4.1 **Appendix 3** sets out a revised Risk Management Policy and Guidance document. This sets out the Authority’s approach to risk management.

4.2 This document contains a revised risk appetite statement, which if adopted will be included in future reports to the Committee. The revised statement indicates that the Authority’s risk appetite is lower than previously as stated, and is a more accurate reflection of the authority’s current approach to risk.

4.3 In undertaking the review of this document ISO 31000 (Risk Management) has been utilised, and feedback from Operational and Senior Managers within the authority, has been sought.

5. Options & cost implications

5.1 Members are asked to consider and comment upon the risk register and agree the Risk Management Policy and Guidance.

5.2 Management of risk is a key aspect of the organisation’s governance and is undertaken within existing corporate budgets.

6. Next steps

6.1 Further updates on the Corporate Risk Register will be brought to future meetings of the Committee.

7. Other Implications

Implication	Yes/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	There are no additional resource requirements arising directly from this report. Any additional resources required for the delivery of identified mitigations will be subject to the Authority’s usual decision making requirements.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Effective risk management contributes to the efficient running of the organisation.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Has due regard been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority’s equality	There are no equalities implications arising from this report. Actions and mitigations are subject

duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	to an Equalities Impact Assessment where this is appropriate.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	There are no implications arising from this report.
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	There are no implications arising from this report.
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	There are no implications arising from this report.
Are there any Data Protection implications?	There are none
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	Effective risk management contributes to the principle of promoting good governance

8. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 8.1 There are no direct risks arising from this report. The report outlines the current major risks facing the Authority and how they will be mitigated.

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Appendices:

1. Explanatory Information
2. Corporate Risk Register
3. Updated risk policy and guidance

SDNPA Consultees: Chief Executive Officer, Director of Countryside Policy & Management, Director of Planning, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

Background Documents: Previous Committee reports

Explanatory Information for Risk Register:

Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
Almost Certain (5)	The event is expected to occur in most circumstances.
Likely (4)	There is a strong possibility the event will occur.
Possible (3)	The event might occur at some time
Unlikely (2)	Not expected, but a slight possibility
Rare (1)	Highly unlikely. It could happen but probably never will

Category	Example Descriptor of Impact
Insignificant (1)	Basic first aid required, less than £100 financial impact, reputation remains intact.
Minor (2)	Short term injury to 1 or 2 people, minor localised disruption lasting less than 24 hours, between £100-£1000, minimal reputation impact.
Moderate (3)	Semi-permanent disability, affects between 3-50 people, high potential for complaints, financial burden between £1,000 and £10,000, litigation possible.
Major (4)	Causing death serious injury or permanent disability. Service closure for up to 1 week, significant financial burden, national adverse publicity, litigation expected.
Catastrophic (5)	Multiple deaths, Financial burden over £100,000, international adverse publicity, widespread displacement of people (over 500), complaints and litigation certain.

SDNPA Risk Appetite Statement:

The Authority seeks to operate within a relatively high overall risk range. The Authority's lowest risk appetite relates to safety including employee health and safety, with a higher risk appetite towards those activities directly connected with the Authority's Purposes and Duty. This means that the Authority accepts that risk is ever present and whilst it will always take steps to ensure risk is mitigated, as far as is possible, it is willing to accept risk as part of its day to day business and will consider all options that are likely to deliver the required outcomes.