

Audit Committee – 24th March 2011

## 7. General Risk Management Update including partnership with East Devon

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### Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to update members of the Audit Committee on the status of the risk management register and the status of risk management across the Council at this time. Members were concerned at the last meeting that they wanted to continue to monitor the transition from one risk recording system to the new system and also to focus attention on the risks appertaining to the sharing of management and services with East Devon District Council at that time.

### Recommendation

That members of the Audit Committee

- (1) note the report;
- (2) note that the transfer between systems will require further training once in place;
- (3) note that the risk register has been updated as requested regarding the partnership with East Devon District Council.

### Report

Risk management at the Council has suffered to a degree from a lack of focus over the last 10-12 months, this in some part has been due to a number of factors:-

- the joint working itself adding complexity over formulation of a combined risk management approach;
- the move from one system Magique to TEN;
- the need to completely redesign the TEN risk register to more fully align with SSDC needs.

The Government has moved rapidly to make cost savings in central government audit and compliance bodies. This has seen the announcement of the end of the Audit Commission, a body charged with driving and raising the profile of risk management across central and local government. This has been seen in some quarters as an indication that risk management is now no longer necessary or not of as much importance.

In fact the opposite is true given the current climate and with the transparency agenda now being promoted by central government.

Despite some early issues good progress has been made in redesigning the TEN risks module to more appropriately fit SSDC needs. It is a very good solution that will be a real

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asset to SSDC in the coming years. It is easier to use and more aligned with Performance Management. However in the transition some of the risks on the register are a little out of date but we remain in good shape to drive risk management forward again once TEN is deployed. Currently there is a small technical problem with the application that is currently being assessed by ICT. Once this is resolved we will need to enter a period of heightened training and awareness on risk management.

The Audit Committee requested that the risks associated with the partnership with East Devon were fully outlined. Since that Committee meeting the joint working programme has been delayed until after the elections. The risk register has been updated to add these risks and they will continue to be monitored through the risk management process.

### **In Summary**

As soon as risks are transferred to the new system a series of awareness and training sessions will take place to ensure that the register is fully up to date. Regular updates on risks are scheduled for Management Board to ensure that the register is current and that the board is kept up to date with the authority's corporate risks.

Partnering risks in relation to joint working are in my view being adequately monitored at this time, and the Procurement and Risk Manager reviews these on a monthly basis.

**Background Papers:** *Audit Committee – 25th March 2010, Risk Management Report*

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