# **Epping Forest District Council Corporate Risk Register**

Date: 21 June 2018

## **Contents**

Section		Page No.
1.	Introduction	3
2.	The Process	4
Appendix 1	Risk Profile	6
Appendix 2	Corporate Risk Register /Action Plans	7 - 21

#### 1. Introduction

A strategic risk management 'refresh' exercise was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 with assistance from Zurich Risk Engineering. This exercise was an opportunity for the Management Board to refresh (or update) through identification, analysis and prioritisation those risks that may affect the ability of the Council to achieve its strategic objectives and Corporate Plan. In doing so, the organisation is recognising the need to sustain risk management at the highest level.

The refresh exercise involved a workshop with Management Board to identify new business risk areas and to update and re-profile important risks from the existing corporate risk register.

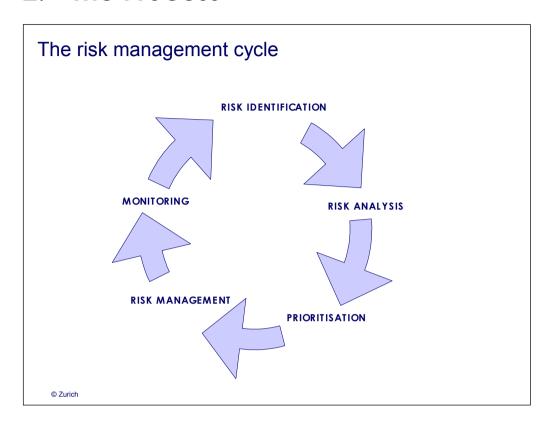
In total 8 strategic risks were profiled at the workshop and during the workshop, each risk was discussed to ensure common agreement and understanding of its description and then prioritised on a matrix. The risk matrix measured each risk for its likelihood and its impact in terms of its potential for affecting the ability of the organisation to achieve its objectives.

For the risks that were assessed with higher likelihood and impact, the group validated the risk scenarios and determined actions to manage them, including assessing the adequacy of existing actions and identifying the need for further actions in order to move the risk down the matrix.

Management Board agreed a timescale for re-visiting these risks in order to assess if they are still relevant and to identify new scenarios. Risks in the red zone will be monitored on a monthly basis and those in the amber zone on a quarterly basis.

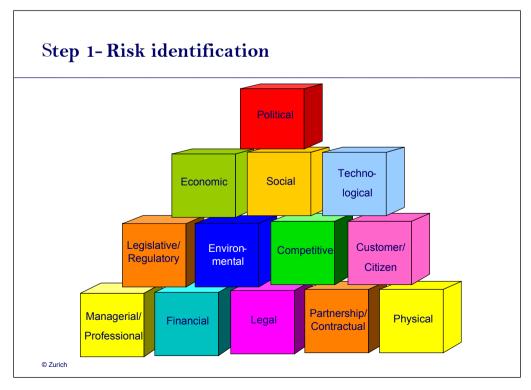
The following report outlines the process utilised by Zurich Risk Engineering and the results achieved.

## 2. The Process



#### **Risk identification**

The first of five stages of the risk management cycle requires risk identification. This formed the initial part of the workshop. In doing so the following 13 categories of risk were considered.



#### Risk analysis

During the workshop, the identified risks were discussed and framed into a risk scenario format, containing risk cause and consequence elements, with a 'trigger' also identified, This format ensured that the full nature of the risk was considered and also helped with the prioritisation of the risks.

#### Risk prioritisation

The discussion resulted in 8 risk scenarios being agreed (Appendix 2) and these were then assessed for impact and likelihood and plotted onto a matrix (Appendix 1). The likelihood of the risks was measured as being 'very high', 'high', 'medium', or 'low/very low'. The impact, compared against the key objectives and Corporate Plan was measured as being 'major', 'moderate', 'minor' or 'insignificant'.

Once all risks had been plotted the matrix was overlaid with red, amber and green filters, with those risks in the red area requiring further particular scrutiny in the short-term, followed by those in the amber area.

#### Risk management and monitoring

The next stage is to monitor the revised management action plans. These plans frame the risk management actions that are required. They map out the target for each risk i.e. to reduce the likelihood, impact or both. They also include targets and critical success factors to allow the risk management action to be monitored.

A risk owner has been identified for each risk. It is vital that each risk should be owned by a member of Management Board to ensure that there is high level support, understanding and monitoring of the work that is required as part of the plans. Risks should also be reviewed as part of the business planning process, in order to assess if they are still relevant and to identify new issues.

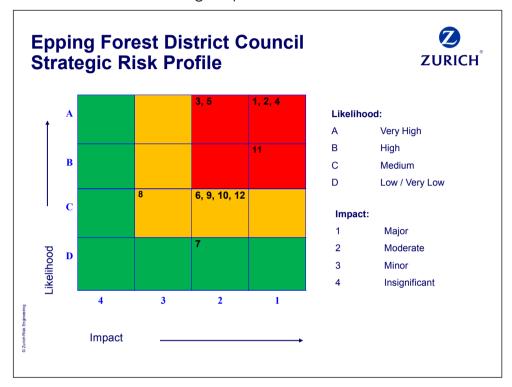
The monitoring of these action plans takes place at Corporate Governance Group, Management Board and the Risk Management Group. The action plans are also reported to Members quarterly.

As part of the regular review and reporting an additional risk on Safeguarding was added to the register in January 2014. The most recent addition was a risk covering various aspects of Housing Capital Finance and this was added in June 2015.

## **Appendix 1 – Risk Profile**

#### Risk profile

During the workshop, 8 risks were identified and framed into scenarios. The results are shown on the following risk profile.



Appendix 2 details all of the above risks.

It is important that an action plan element is written for each of the risks, with particular focus on those with the highest priority, as it is this which will allow them to be monitored and successfully managed down.

#### **List of current Corporate Risks**

Risk number	Short name
1	Local plan
2	Strategic sites
3	Welfare reform
4	Finance – income
5	Economic development
6	Data/ information
7	Business continuity
8	Partnerships
9	Safeguarding
10	Housing Capital
11	Transformation Programme
12	Waste Management

.

**Appendix 2 – Corporate Risk Register and Action Plans** 

Risk No 1 Local Plan A1			
Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk Owner
On-going changes to the Planning system increase the importance of having an up to date adopted Local Plan to avoid the risk of intervention by the Secretary of State. On 16 November 2017 the Secretary Statement announced the commencement of intervention in the plan making arrangements of 15 local planning authorities that had failed to progress a Local Plan to the stage of publication	The Council is currently awaiting the decision on a claim for judicial review which is holding up the submission of the Local Plan Submission Version (LPSV) for independent examination. This could result in the Council having to take the LPSV back to full Council and a further Regulation 19 publication prior to submission.	Plan not "sound", leading to further delay, wasted resources, and vulnerability to planning appeal decisions and development in the Green Belt.	Derek Macnab
A failure to submit the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination within 6 months of the date of publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (anticipated in Summer 2018) will result in the		As above	
Council needing to use the standard methodology for the assessment of housing need – using this methodology it is likely that the housing target will be as set out in the consultation (i.e 923 homes per		As above	
annum) rather than the 518 homes currently identified as the District's housing requirement. Any delay will also require the Council to undertake a significant amount of further work. In addition the Government is proposing to introduce a new Housing Delivery Test which without an adopted Local Plan the Council will not be able to meet.		Significant diversion of professional resources to appeals. Risk of costs awards against Council.	
Planning policy recruitment and retention issues. Not considering alternative options of delivering work i.e outsourcing.	Inability to fill vacancies.	Delays in achieving timetable.	

Risk No 1 Local Plan –	Action Plan					
Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions	Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Local Plan Submission Version 2017 Agreed by Council 14 December 2017 and published between 18 December 2017 and 29 January 2018.	Key milestone to achieve new LDS. Revised LDS may be required depending on JR outcome.	Collation of Representations and plan was ready to be submitted to Planning Inspectorate by 31 March 2018. Submission held up by JR.	Derek Macnab	Future adherence to project plan.	MB review 6 weekly	None – process ongoing.
Local Development Scheme (LDS) revised July 2018.	Local Development Scheme adopted by Cabinet July 2018.	Review progress against key milestones. Planning Inspectorate (PINS) have advised that an updated LDS is not required if Plan is submitted shortly.	Derek Macnab	Adherence to revised LDS	MB review 6 weekly	Submit as soon as possible after JR decision

Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions	Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Systematic approach to Duty to Co-operate, engaging public bodies and developing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with key councils in the Strategic Housing Market Area (SHMA).	Regular reports at officer and member level through the Cooperation for Sustainable Development Group. Draft Employment MoU now agreed.	Important that key decisions do not precede Duty to Co-operate i.e. "fait accompli"- Group is exploring additional items to be included on discussion agenda.	Derek Macnab	Submitted plan passes legal test of Duty to Cooperate.	MB review six weekly	Officer Meetings monthly now underway.  Duty to Cooperate" Member meetings held regularly.
Development of mitigation strategy as set out in the MoU regarding the effect of development on Epping Forest SAC.	Regular meetings now held with key stakeholders to develop mitigation strategy.	Awaiting information on projects to support the mitigation strategy from City of London (Epping Forest Conservators)	Derek Macnab	Interim mitigation strategy in place pending a full agreed strategy.		Agreed strategy by the end of 2018.
Consultants in place to support project management, resource planning, Sustainability Assessment, transport modelling, master planning	Staff cannot be prevented from leaving. Exit interviews should reveal any specific patterns.  Market is picking up, making recruitment more difficult.  EFDC has offered market supplements on key posts to offer competitive salaries in a tight market.	Ongoing review of strategy by senior planners and Management Board. Scrutiny Function to be undertaken by Neighbourhood Select Committee.	Derek Macnab	No delays to timetable due to staffing gaps or lack of critical skills		

Risk No 2 Strategic Site	es A1						
Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence			Risk Owner
The Council has a number of St needs to make the right decision deliver on those decisions.	ns about and then	Not maximising the opportunity of the strategic sites either through decisions or delivery.		<ul> <li>Financial viability of Council harmed</li> <li>Lack of economic development and job creation</li> <li>External criticism</li> </ul>			Derek Macnab
One key individual is driving for	vard the projects.	Loss of ke	ey individual	<ul> <li>Project delaye</li> </ul>	ed or mismanaged		
Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectivenes controls/acti		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Work on strategic sites is co- ordinated through a dedicated Cabinet Committee.	Work is progressing developing a number of the veloping and the veloping and the veloping and the veloping sites.  Winston Church negotiations taking potential tenants for space  2. St Johns, negotiation on the veloping with Eppine Council;  3. Langston Road, discussion with retar one or two units still developing with retar one or two units still developing sites.  Waltham Abbey Centre; leisure centrow managed by People and they are developing sites. Construction is progressive to plan;  5. Pyrles Lane Nurs Cabinet agreed dispersive tagged dispersive tagged. Marketing January 2018.	er of sites:  ill, place with r retail  ations are g Town  in ailers as I to let;  Leisure tres are laces for e gressing  sery, July posal	Complete letting of retail space.  Relocation of Housing depot to Oakwood Hill depot in progress.  Complete letting of last few units.  Monitor construction of new centre. Currently on programme.  Nursery Services to relocate to Town Mead.	Derek Macnab	Development of strategic sites completed in accordance with Cabinet decisions.	Monthly	November 2018

Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence		Risk Owner	
The government has pledged to make substantial savings from the overall welfare bill. This will require a major reform of the welfare system which is likely to have serious impacts on the Council and the community. This includes Universal Credit, changes to Council Tax and other benefits and direct payments to tenants.			eform changes have a al effect on the Council and y	<ul> <li>Tenants no longer able to afford current/new tenancies.</li> <li>Increase in evictions and homelessness</li> <li>Increased costs of temporary accommodation</li> <li>Unable to secure similar level of income due to payment defaults</li> <li>Increase in rent arrears</li> <li>Public dissatisfaction</li> <li>Criticism of the Council for not mitigating the effects for residents.</li> </ul>			Alan Hall
Existing Controls /actions to address risk	Effectivenes controls/act	<b>-</b>	Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Joint Benefits and Housing working group established. Mitigation action plan developed.	Two thirds of the achieve been implement		Working Group to continue and amend mitigation action plan as necessary.  To be reviewed when the full service is implemented.	Alan Hall	A smooth implementation of welfare reforms.  Minimise number and cost of redundancies.	Monthly	31 December 2018.

Risk No 4 Finance Income	e A1						
Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence			Risk Owner
The Government are consulting changes in responsibilities and f four year settlements being in pl reductions still likely.  A large number of rating appeals received and the outcome of the Welfare reform may require subthe calculation and administration likely reduction in funding received. The medium term financial strate substantial net CSB reductions of	inancing. Despite ace further  s have been se is uncertain.  stantial change to n of benefits with a ed.  egy requires	Unable to income du services,	secure required level of ue to reduced demand for changes in legislation or hange in funding ms.	<ul> <li>Council unable to meet budget requirements</li> <li>Staffing and service level reductions</li> <li>Increase Council Tax</li> <li>Increase in charges</li> <li>Greater use of reserves if required net savings not achieved</li> <li>Higher level of saving in subsequent years.</li> </ul>		Peter Maddock	
Existing Controls /actions to address risk	Effectivenes controls/acti		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Monitoring of key income streams and NDR tax base. Savings opportunities pursued through service reviews and corporate restructure.	Effective to date as have been achieved meet the financial to by Members.	d that	Update Medium Term Financial Strategy as announcements are made on changes to central funding and welfare.  Continue to pursue opportunities to reduce net spending.	Peter Maddock	Savings targets achieved with net expenditure reductions over the medium term as part of a structured plan.	Monthly	28 February 2019, budget to Council.

Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence			Risk Owner
Economic development and employment is very important, particularly in the current economic climate. The Council needs to be able to provide opportunities for economic development and employment (especially youth employment) in the District.		Council performs relatively poorly compared to other authorities.		<ul> <li>Unable to secure sufficient opportunities</li> <li>Local area and people lose out</li> <li>Insufficient inward investment</li> <li>Impact on economic vitality of area</li> <li>Loss of revenue</li> </ul>			Derek Macnab
Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Members have agreed the key objectives to be delivered by the Economic Development Strategy. Work on final strategy has paused pending outcome of further evidence work e.g. Employment/Visitor Economy being undertaken as part of the Local Plan.  Economic Development Team fully staffed.	Too early to determ effectiveness.	nine	Amend and update following consultation on Local Plan.	Derek Macnab	Growth in NDR tax base and employment opportunities. Council to be viewed as punching above its weight.	Monthly	None

Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence		Risk Owner		
The Authority handles a large amount of personal and business data. Either through hacking or carelessness, security of the data could be compromised.		Data held by the Council ends up in inappropriate hands.		<ul> <li>Breach of corporate governance</li> <li>Increased costs and legal implications</li> <li>Reputation damaged</li> </ul>			Simon Hill	
Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectivenes controls/act		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date	
Updated Data Protection policy agreed by Corporate Governance Group and rolling out through meta-compliance.  Data Protection formed part of Member induction from May 2014, with requirement to confirm acceptance of the Council's DP policy.  Consolidation of Data Protection and Freedom of Information work in one area.  Security Officer is continually monitoring situation and potential risks. Most systems have in built controls to prevent unauthorised access.  Controls in systems have been strengthened in response to specific occurrences.  New system for handling F.O.I. requests now implemented.	Generally effective with no significant I far in 2018/19.		Update F.O.I. publication scheme and guide to information.  Data sharing and fair processing notices to be reviewed and standardised.  Maintain GCSx compliance and system controls.  A working group is meeting monthly to ensure GDPR compliance.	Simon Hill	Continued security of personal data held by the Council in accordance with the Data Protections Act 1998.  No criticism from the ICO over how requests are handled.  No data loss or system downtime due to unauthorised access of EFDC systems or data.	Quarterly	None	

Risk No 7 Business Cor Vulnerability	ntinuity D2	Trigger		Consequence			Risk Owner
The Council is required to develop and implement robust Business Continuity Plans in line with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act.  Following the re-organisation plans will need to be updated and changes in responsibilities confirmed.		Unable to respond effectively to a business continuity incident (e.g. IT virus/flu pandemic)		<ul> <li>Services disrupted / Loss of service</li> <li>Possible loss of income</li> <li>Staff absence</li> <li>Hardship for some of the community</li> <li>Council criticised for not responding effectively</li> </ul>			Derek Macnab
Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Most services already have business continuity plans in place and a separate flu pandemic plan has been developed.  The Corporate Plan has been updated and adopted.	The effectiveness of is assessed periodic through test and ex	cally	Guidance to be issued to services on updating plans.  Arrange periodic tests and exercises.	Derek Macnab	Having plans in place which are proved fit for purpose either by events or external scrutiny.	Quarterly	None

Risk No 8 Partnerships Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence		Risk Owner	
agency partnerships e.g. LSP - LEP, and these		provided v	ership fails or services via arrangements lacking governance.	<ul> <li>Relationships</li> <li>Claw back of</li> <li>Unforeseen a Council</li> <li>Censure by a</li> <li>Adverse impa</li> </ul>	Alan Hall		
Existing Controls/actions to address risk	Effectivenes controls/act		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Active participation in key partnerships by appropriate officers/Members.  Structured reporting back to designated Select Committee.	No significant issues to date.		Continue existing monitoring procedures for current partnerships and construct appropriate arrangements for any new partnerships.	Alan Hall	No significant impacts on service delivery or Council reputation from any partnership failures.	Quarterly	None
Members can request representatives on outside bodies to report to Full Council.	Internal Audit conducted an audit of partnerships and gave a rating of substantial assurance.		Service areas need to ensure their own risk registers cover any significant partnerships they are involved with.				

Risk No 9 Safeguarding C2								
Vulnerability	Trigger	Consequence	Risk Owner					
The Council needs to demonstrate its ability to meet its duties under Sections 11 and 47 of the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014, which refer to adults with needs for care and support. This includes a specific responsibility for safeguarding adults from self-neglect.	The Council fails to meet its duties in regard to safeguarding children, young people and adults with needs for care and support.	<ul> <li>A child, young person or vulnerable adult suffers significant harm</li> <li>A child, young person or vulnerable adult suffers from exploitation</li> <li>Avoidable death of a child, young person or vulnerable adult living in the District</li> <li>Reputational risk for Council</li> <li>Censure and special measures applied</li> </ul>	Alan Hall					

Risk No 9 Safeguarding	g - Action Plan					
Existing Controls/ actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions	Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
The Council has a Safeguarding Policy (2018), which is updated in line with new legislation. The policy details what is required of all staff and Elected Members and is supported by a set of procedures which set out the process for recording safeguarding concerns, incidents and allegations.  A corporate Safeguarding	The Council has reduced the risk of safeguarding issues going unnoticed by staff and Elected Members by developing a new programme of training and production of the new Policy and procedures 2018.  This group has become an	Leadership Team and Managers to continue to promote vigilance amongst staff.  The Council needs to ensure timely response to changes in legislation or local procedures.  Directorates need to	Alan Hall	The Council meets all of its duties under Section 11 and 47.  The Council meets the new duties of the Care Act 2014.  The Council fully meets all aspects of the ESCB Section 11 and ESAB Safeguarding self - assessment.	Monthly	ESCB (Safeguarding Children) Audit to be submitted May 2018.
Group ensures sharing of best practice and information across Directorates and enables the identification of any weaknesses in the Council's work.	effective forum for sharing of best practice and commitment from all Directorates is shown.	continue to commit time for representatives to attend the Corporate Working Group.				
Council policies have been developed for all new and emerging safeguarding issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).	Several of these policies have been used across Essex as examples of best practice.					
A Safeguarding Strategy and Action Plan has been adopted by Cabinet.  A bespoke Basic Safeguarding Awareness elearning training resource has been developed,	These documents set out areas requiring further improvement.  To be launched summer 2018.	Training records to be held and maintained centrally by the People Team.				
which all EFDC staff and Members must undertake.  An enhanced bespoke EFDC face to face training session has been developed, to be rolled out summer 2018.  Nursery Worker	The Safeguarding 'Hub' enables all EFDC safeguarding issues to be reported. The number of concerns identified in the last year has increased significantly.					
Accommodation Task Group established.						

Vulnerability         Trigger					Risk Owner		
receipts in set timescale on qualifying capital schemes we will have to pay the money to the Government along with interest at a penalty rate.  Changes to legislation which reduce income to the		planning p	n of further restrictions on	<ul> <li>Loss of capita</li> <li>Revenues cost</li> <li>Loss of rental</li> <li>Delays in prost</li> <li>Increase in ho</li> <li>Current 30 yes</li> <li>unsustainable</li> </ul>	Alan Hall		
The Government is introducing right to buy for tenants of housing associations financed through the forced sales of Council properties as they become void. The initial pilot is being expanded in 2017/18 with funding from the Treasury. What will happen beyond 2017/18 remains unclear.		Imposition of right to buy scheme which requires the disposal of a large proportion of the Council's void properties.					
Existing Controls/actions to address risk			Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Position being monitored by the House Building Cabinet Committee and a number of contingency options are available including purchasing on the open market.	Effective to date.		Continue close monitoring of financial position.  Keeping Members fully informed of the potential consequences of their actions.	Alan Hall	Loss of right to buy receipts is minimised.	Monthly	Ongoing
The Council belongs to the Association of Retained Council Housing which lobbies on such issues.	Too early to comment yet as the policy is still being developed.		Monitor policy development/announcem ents and participate in lobbying if appropriate.	Alan Hall	No loss of Council properties to support right to buy for HA tenants.	Monthly	

	on Programme	B1					1
Vulnerability		Trigger		Consequence			Risk Owner
The Council has embarked on a major programme to modernise working practices and improve efficiency. The three key projects within the programme are people, accommodation and ICT. These are all challenging pieces of work and if any of them fail or are significantly delayed the whole programme may collapse.		There are many issues with the potential to disrupt one or more of the projects. Each project requires resourcing financially and with staff time. Loss of a key individual or a lack of finance would make delivery difficult.  Restrictive listing of offices could obstruct the work on accommodation.		<ul> <li>Service impro</li> <li>Improvements</li> <li>Pressure on f</li> <li>Reputational of</li> </ul>	Derek Macnab		
Existing Controls /actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Regular meetings of Transformation Programme Board (TPB) and monitoring reports presented to every Cabinet meeting.	ICT and People strategies approved by Cabinet and progressing.		TPB to continue to monitor projects and ensure adequate human and financial resource available.  Action on listing can only be determined when the outcome is clear.  To work with Historic England to ascertain the extent of the works that can be done to satisfy the listing criteria.	Derek Macnab	Projects delivered on time and in budget with full benefits realisation.  Detailed success factors and measures are set out in the project management documents for each project.	Monthly	Key dates are set out in the project management documents for each project.

Vulnerability				Consequence			Risk Owner
Municipal Limited to secure profitable outlets for recycling materials processed through the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) could result in diminishing income.		income from materials primarily to decision to This has re	s been significant drop in om the sale of recycling especially paper, caused by the Chinese government to ban import of MRF paper. resulted in saturation in the ty markets.	<ul> <li>Reputational damage to the Council if recycling materials is sent to landfill.</li> <li>Additional costs to the Council if Biffa cannot sell materials.</li> <li>Additional costs under pain/gain share mechanism in the contract if the income from recycling continues to drop or worst case becomes a cost.</li> </ul>			Derek Macnab
Existing Controls /actions to address risk	Effectiveness of controls/actions		Required further management action	Responsibility for action	Critical success factors and measures	Review frequency	Key date
Financial settlement is being agreed with Biffa to mitigate some of the costs arising from the increased costs of processing and the capital investment incurred to improve the quality of recycling output from the Biffa MRF.	Dependent, to a large extent, on the market forces in the case of commodity prices.  Risks due to Recycling Index Unit Rate (RIUR) variation to be continued to be monitored closely.		Management Board to continue to monitor the costs and market fluctuations.	Derek Macnab	RIUR reviews result in increased income.  Difficulties in selling recycling materials is identified early.	Monthly	November 2018