

## ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP

**Report of** Paul Corney - Head of ARP

**To:** ARP Joint Committee, 27th March 2018

**Subject:** Anglia Revenues Partnership Risk Register

**Purpose:** To provide Members with assurance concerning risks facing the Anglia Revenues Partnership

### Recommendation(s):

- That the Joint Committee notes the contents of the report and agrees the Risk Assurance Register.

### 1. Introduction / Background.

- 1.1 At the Joint Committee in June 2014 it was agreed that members will be updated every six months on the risk assurance so that risk can be reviewed regularly.
- 1.2 The audit governance report recommended that the Risk Register should be regularly reviewed by the Joint Committee so that each council can consider the risks in relation to their corporate risk assurance.

### 2 Current position.

- 2.1 The risk register has been developed by the Strategic Management Team and is attached at Appendix A. Appendix B shows the criteria used to apply a risk score by looking at the likelihood of a risk occurring and the potential impact of the risk to the ARP and the partner Councils.
- 2.2 A risk relating to subsidy shortfall was added to the register in December 2014. Every year, as part of the process of claiming housing benefit subsidy, external audit teams test a sample of cases. If high value errors are found then it can result in significant changes to the amount of subsidy paid.
- 2.3 The extrapolation methodology used by the auditors means that a fairly small error in a high value expenditure area can result in significant reduction in income received. The risk is therefore deemed to be amber even though all reasonable mitigation is in place.
- 2.4 The subsidy claims for all 7 partners have been audited in respect of 2016/17 expenditure and no Authority has suffered a significant loss of subsidy and no Authority has lost income from local authority error overpayments (one of the highest risk areas). The audit for 2017/18 will be completed by the end of November 2018 and subject to audit results it would currently appear that all Councils will retain their Local Authority subsidy.
- 2.5 From May 2016 Lowestoft has been included in the digital rollout of Universal Credit full service and so all new claims for help with rent will be dealt with by the DWP. The digital roll out will continue until 2018 for new claims and then the managed migration of existing caseloads will commence from 2019
- 2.6 The Government has determined the timescale for the ARP partners to move to the new service for new claims and some changes but not yet for the managed migration of existing claims. The implications for Councils are detailed in the risk register however, until the Government provide more information we cannot predict, with any certainty, future funding levels.

- 2.7 The risk surrounding income from Business Rates has reduced now that the April 2017 revaluation has been completed however, there is still risk in relation to subsequent appeals that may be received and reduce rates payable.
- 2.8 The risk relating to business continuity (loss of buildings/systems) has risen because of the recent cyber-attacks and the increase in such attacks. West Suffolk IT already update all software as soon as reasonably practical however, they are aware that the risk of such attacks is higher than previously and will be reviewing current protection and mitigation to ensure that systems continue to be secure from attack.

### **3 Options**

- To note the contents of the report
- To comment on risks that should be added or removed from the register
- To review the risk scores

#### **3.1 Reasons for recommendations**

To provide the Joint Committee and Partner Authorities with assurance that risks facing the delivery of Housing Benefit and Revenues Services have been considered and actions for mitigation have been put in place where possible.

## **4 IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Risk**

Please refer to the Appendices.

### **4.2 Financial**

If risk is not managed and regularly reviewed then there can be significant financial risk where problems are not identified and dealt with.

### **4.3 Legal**

None

### **4.4 Equality and Diversity**

Not applicable.

## **5 APPENDICES**

- 5.1 Appendix A – Risk Register  
Appendix B – Risk Matrix

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