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Key Issue

To inform the JMC of the key risks associated to the BCA Canal Partnership after annual review and to ensure risks are mitigated as far as possible.

Summary

A Risk Register has been prepared highlighting that the key risks relate to the partnership ceases to function properly through partners withdrawing and if the BCA fail to inspect critical infrastructure correctly.

Officer's recommendation

That the JMC note the annual revision of the Risk Register

1 Introduction & background

- 1.1 A Risk Register was prepared and reported to Committee in June 2015, building on a register prepared by Officers in 2011.
- 1.2 The register has now been updated and the risks contained in it reviewed due to the passage of time.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 A number of high risks have increased in score as their likelihood has increased – these are principally concerned with the finance of the partnership. Cuts in support grants (BCA 44) arising from *impact of the comprehensive spending assessment* now appear likely within the next 48 months and the mitigations appear to have little effect – this is now considered an unmitigated risk.
- 2.2 Similarly the interlinked risks surrounding the delay in implementing the Canal Centre redevelopment (BCA 31 & 32) has impacted the BCA's ability to implement a Business Plan leading towards self sufficiency - in practice officers are seeking opportunities to generate income as they arise but this is not an adequate replacement for a planned approach. The wider discussion about alternative futures for the Canal has had a significant impact on the owners thinking in terms of making investment decisions, but this has impacted the BCA's ability to produce a business plan showing how increased self sufficiency can be reached.
- 2.3 The majority of risks associated with infrastructure have remained static, as the capital funded maintenance programme has eaten into the backlog of works and the BCA keep pace with the inspection programme. The exception is BCA45 where increased intelligence from the inspection programme demonstrates that there is a backlog of maintenance especially in the channel beyond current resources which could lead to the curtailment of navigation.
- 2.4 The ability of the BCA to effectively use social media to effectively engage with stakeholders, together with generally more robustness in the HCC IT provision has lead to risks BCA 51 and BCA 29 decreasing.

3 Equalities & diversity implications

- 3.1 The risks associated with reduced funding and increasing income may make it more likely that those on low incomes feel less able to use Canal facilities as more charges have to be made.
- 3.2 Any reduction in revenue maintenance for facilities may impact on the provision of facilities, well maintained level towpath, for less able people.

4 Crime & disorder implications

- 4.1 The risks associated with Crime & Disorder on the Canal are not significant, and there are no associated risks in the risk register.
- 4.2 Reducing funding and therefore Canal staffing further would make the on the ground presence even less than at present, with anti-social behaviour and associated crimes, such as graffiti or vandalism, likely to rise.

5 Conclusion and recommendation

- 5.1 It is vital for the safety of residents that the partnership continues to fund the BCA to an appropriate level, whilst a review into the future management of the Canal is carried out.
- 5.2 During this time it is important for the BCA to seek to reduce reliance on revenue grants and replace it with directly generated income. To this end it is very important that officers prepare a Business Plan showing how these improvements can be made in the short and medium terms.

6 What happens next

- 6.1 JMC Members note the risks and take action to mitigate them, principally through securing funding.