

Lead officers: James Taylor

Telephone: 01483 517538

Email: james.taylor@surreycc.gov.uk



### 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 is maintained 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. An annual review has highlighted very little change in risk.

### 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, and reviewed in November 2016 building on a register prepared by Officers in 2011.
- 1.2 The register has now been updated following its annual review.

#### 2 Discussion

- 2.1 The majority of risks have not changed with the mitigated risk score remaining static.
- 2.2 The highest risk remaining the prospect of revenue grant funding reductions from partners.
- 2.3 Of the small number of risks which have changed 3 risks have increased in severity, and one decreased (improved). The improvement is BCA 32 – with the plan for the Campsite now being an agenda item for this Committee to consider.
- 2.4 Where risk have increased these are: BCA 17 & 41 - relating to conservation where there is a limited amount of evidence to show that the agreed Conservation Management Plan has not brought the improvement in condition it was designed to deliver; and BCA 49 demonstrating the complex nature and lack of resource to fix unplanned towpath failures. Overall however all of these risk remain in the less severe categories.

#### 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 the canal that the partnership continues to fund the BCA to an appropriate level, whilst discussions are continued with Canal & River Trust concerning the future management of the Canal.
- 5.2 Despite officers having already increased directly generated income to 35% of the partnership's budget, it is important for the BCA to continue to seek to reduce reliance on revenue grants further and replace it with more directly generated income streams. Officers have prepared an overall business plan which is in working draft format, and from which individual business proposals to develop income are being brought before the JMC for approval.

#### **6 What happens next**

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