

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 ceasing to function properly through partners withdrawing funding, or if the BCA fail to inspect critical infrastructure correctly. The 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, building on a register prepared by Officers in 2011.
- 1.2 The register has now been updated following its annual review by the Strategic Manager.

2 Discussion

- 2.1 The majority of risks have not changed with the mitigated risk score remaining static since the review in 2017.
- 2.2 The only risk which has increased is BCA 37 – concerning the risk surrounding the registered reservoir at Mytchett Lake. This is primarily an SCC Risk as the reservoir is registered to SCC, not the BCA. The Strategic Manager was concerned about revised terms and conditions limiting professional liability imposed by the previous supplier. Instead SCC's usual supplier of Engineering Services, Atkins, have been asked to supply the Supervising and Inspecting Engineer – however, the transfer process has not gone well with delays in getting a contract in place. It is expected that the risk will reduce to previous levels once initial "teething" issues have been resolved.
- 2.3 The highest risk remains the prospect of revenue grant funding reductions from partners.
- 2.4 Despite officers having already increased directly generated income to 38% 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 cases to develop income are being brought before the JMC for approval.

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 The highest risk remains around funding, especially as it appears that the opportunity of a quick transfer to Canal & River Trust has closed, and the Canal is likely to be managed by the partnership for the foreseeable future. Options to support the BCA generate income and safely reduce costs will need to be brought forward as quickly as possible to ensure that the Canal remains in good condition from a recreation/navigation, safety and biodiversity perspective going forward.
- 5.2 The Strategic Manager recommends that:
 - That the JMC note the annual revision of the Risk Register

6 **What happens next**

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