



Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee

Basingstoke Canal Authority Risk Register

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Key Issue

To inform the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of the key risks associated to the Basingstoke Canal Authority (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 a small increase in risk especially surrounding funding and staffing levels.

11/20

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 first reviewed in 2016.
- 2.2 This year there are two specific risks relating to the Covid 19 pandemic – these are risks BCA52 and BCA53. These respectively deal with the financial risks of the BCA being restricted in trading leading ultimately to an inability to employ sufficient staff to manage the waterway safely; and secondly the majority of staff being off sick due to the virus. BCA52 is showing as high (red) risk, as there has already been a significant financial impact from Covid-19 during 2020, and there are only weak mitigations possible. BCA53 however is a much less severe risk when mitigated, as there are robust mitigations in place to combat all staff being off at once.
- 2.3 Four risks have increased this year, of which three remain medium (yellow) risks. These are BCA 17 (Tree management), BCA 20 (Management of structures eg: bridges), and BCA28 (Emergency Plan). BCA 28 relates to delays caused by the new Supervising Engineer for Reservoirs requiring specific additions to the plan – this appears to be a one-off and the risk is expected to revert to previous year's assessments once that is completed. BCA 20 relates to the retrenchment of both SCC and HCC Structures teams onto

concentrating on Highway assets, and BCA 17 relates to the delays in the BCA obtaining sufficient trained staff expertise to inspect its tree stock in line with policy timings. Along with BCA 15 and 30 which increased last year there is a general theme about the BCA but also other SCC and HCC departments being able to employ sufficient staff resources given budget requirements. Covid-19 has not helped the BCA speed up the recruitment of additional staff resources.

- 2.4 The highest risks remain around funding of the partnership, both from funding partners being unable to continue grants and from Covid-19 restrictions causing income generating activity to be curtailed.

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. Despite officers having already increased directly generated income to around 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. However, Covid restrictions during 2020 have shown the fragility of the tourism and leisure sector and demonstrated the need to keep an adequate reserve to ensure the BCA does not fail, and for all funding partners to maintain their grant funding as long as possible.
- 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.