



Audit Committee
19 March 2014

Report from the Chief Finance Officer

Corporate Risk Register

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report presents the council's current Corporate Risk Register following review by the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Audit Committee to review and note the contents of the Council's updated Corporate Risk Register.

3. Detail

- 3.1. The council's risk management strategy and policy was agreed by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) in September 2011 and endorsed by the Audit Committee in December 2011. A summary of the risk management process is set out:
- Directors ensure that a risk register is in place for all their areas of responsibility utilising the council's risk template
 - Operational risks are managed at a departmental level with key risks, which may be of significance across the whole organisation or need escalating due to their risk rating, being fed into the Corporate Risk Register
 - Registers are forwarded to Audit and Investigations on a quarterly basis.
 - CMT develops and maintains (with support from Audit and Investigations) a register of the council's highest level strategic risk. These are held on a Corporate Risk Register. CMT will consider these risks along with those submitted by Directors and incorporate appropriate operational risks into the Corporate Register. The operational risks remain separately identifiable on this register.

- The One Council programme maintains risk logs on a project by project basis. Where these are significant they will be reflected in the Corporate Register.
- Audit and Investigations assist CMT and Departmental Management Teams to develop their registers and provide regular reports to the Audit Committee concerning risks and the risk management process. The risk registers will drive the council's internal audit plan.

3.2. The current register is attached at appendix 1. There are a number of changes since the last Audit Committee and CMT review in September 2013 and CMT are asked to consider these:

Strategic Risks – No new inclusions or deletions, some changes to wording and responsible officer as highlighted in blue.

Audit comment – Given the significant budget reductions required across all service areas, CMT may wish to consider the inclusion of a strategic risk around the ability to deliver savings and maintain statutory services. It is recognised that this is a very broad risk heading and will be difficult to encapsulate in a single register entry.

Operational Risks –

Regeneration and Growth: The risks concerning failure to hit both council tax and NNDR collection targets have been removed. Asbestos records in schools has reappeared as has failure to deliver the customer service project.

A new risk concerning assaults within the Civic Center has been added.

Adult Social Services: New risk added concerning meeting the demands of carers.

Environment and Neighbourhood: New risk added concerning the parking contract.

Legal and Procurement: Three new risks added concerning compliance with EU procurement regulations; judicial reviews and employment litigation.

Assistant Chief Executives Department: Five new risks added for the new department.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2011 section 4(1) require the council to “ensure that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.”
- 4.2. Further section 5 (1) (4) (i) requires that the Director of Finance and Corporate Services determines accounting control systems which include adequate measures to ensure that risk is appropriately managed.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. None

6. Diversity Implications

6.1. None

7. Contact Officer Details

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