
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 23 September 2013
Subject: Risk Update Report
Report of: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer
Summary: The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the Council's risk position as at August 2013.

Contact Officer: Kathy Riches, Head of Internal Audit and Risk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Audit Committee

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Good risk management enables delivery of the Council's aims and objectives. Good risk management ensures that we adopt a planned and systematic approach to the identification and control of the risks that threaten the delivery of objectives, protection of assets, or the financial wellbeing of the Council.

Financial:

1. None directly from this report.

Legal:

2. There are no direct legal implications.

Risk Management:

3. The specific strategic risks are as set out in the report below. The Audit Committee has, in its terms of reference, the responsibility to monitor the operation of risk management within the Council and to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. There are no direct staffing issues.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. None directly from this report.

Public Health:

6. None directly from this report.

Community Safety:

7. None directly from this report.

Sustainability:

8. None directly from this report.

Procurement:

9. None directly from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the contents of the report.

Background

10. The Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee include the monitoring of the operation of the Risk Management Strategy. This report is the regular update report to assist the Committee in discharging its responsibilities.
11. The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the Council's risk position as at August 2013.

Risk Update

12. A fundamental review of the strategic risk register was undertaken approximately two years ago and since then it has been regularly reviewed and updated. However, in order to ensure that the risk register remains appropriate and correctly worded good practice suggests there should be a periodic fundamental review. In order to deliver this, a detailed refresh of the register is currently in progress. Discussions have taken place with senior managers across the Council and their views have been sought on the current risks facing the organisation.

13. Themes have emerged from these discussions which are currently being further considered in order to determine whether they represent either strategic or operational risks to the Council. These themes include:
- the potential impact on the organisation of New Ways of Working including under the Your Space 2 programme
 - ability of partner organisations to cope with change and financial pressures e.g. Police and Health
 - impact on CBC if such organisations are significantly adversely affected by the impacts of change and pressure
 - uncertainties about Government grants/changes to local government funding in its broadest sense
 - impact of welfare reform agenda on the local population
 - resilience and the interdependencies of major projects
 - supply chain failure
 - information management and a failure to move from data collection to intelligence
14. The discussions have also identified areas where risks may have changed from strategic to operational; where activities or projects referred to in the Register have now been completed and should be removed or adjusted; and where the risk had now been alleviated due to processes being put in place. It is recognised that some of the risks previously included within the register should remain, but some may need to be recast to reflect the current position.
15. As this major piece of work is currently in progress, a detailed summary of the updated risks and their resulting risk scores has still to be developed and therefore a dashboard summary has not been attached to this report. Consideration is also being given to appropriate mitigating actions and controls. Work will continue on this during the Autumn with the engagement of Risk Champions within the directorates. Current risks and their scores remain as previously reported

Conclusion and Next Steps

16. Internal Audit and Risk will continue to coordinate and update the Strategic Risk register and a detailed update reflecting the revisions discussed in this report will be presented to the next Audit Committee.

Appendices:

None

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

None

Location of papers:

N/A