

Agenda item:

Audit Committee

On 3 February 2011

Report Title: Risk Management update Quarter 3 2010/11

Report authorised by: Director of Corporate Resources

J. Paule 26/1/11

Report of and Contact Officer: Anne Woods, Head of Audit and Risk Management

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Wards(s) affected: All Report for: Information

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To inform the Audit Committee of the current position on compliance with the corporate risk management policy for the management of risk registers across the Council.

2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and/or other Strategies:

2.1Audit and Risk Management contribute to the Council priority to deliver excellent, customer focused, cost effective services by ensuring that the Council's risk management framework is in place and operating effectively. Internal audit reviews key risk registers, the controls in place to manage the identified risks. Recommendations for improvement are made, where appropriate.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Audit Committee is recommended to note the compliance with the risk management strategy for the completion of risk registers across the Council.

4. Reason for recommendation(s)

4.1 The Audit Committee is responsible for approving the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy as part of its Terms of Reference. In order to facilitate this, and provide information on its implementation across the Council, the corporate Policy progress reports are provided on a regular basis for review and approval by the Audit Committee.

5. Other options considered

5.1 Not applicable

6. Summary

6.1 The internal audit service makes a significant contribution to ensuring the implementation of the Council's risk management framework throughout the authority. This report focuses on the compliance with the corporate risk management framework for risk registers during the third quarter of 2010/11.

7. Head of Legal Services Comments

7.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and advises that there are no direct legal implications arising out of the report.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as the monitoring of compliance by Directorates to the Council's risk management framework forms part of the annual audit programme. This is an important function and it is positive that no non compliance or recommendations for improvement are being highlighted to the Committee at Qtr 3.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

9.1Not applicable

10. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

10.1 This report deals with how risk registers are managed across all areas of the Council. Improvements in managing risks and controls will improve services the Council provides to all sections of the community.

11. Consultation

11.1 No external consultation was required or undertaken in the production of this report. Consultation is undertaken with respective service managers, Assistant Directors and Directors in the production of risk registers and internal audit reports. Their comments are included in the final report which is circulated in accordance with the agreed internal audit reporting protocol.

12. Service Financial Comments

12.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The work within internal audit to implement the Council's risk management framework is part of the contract with Deloitte and Touche which was awarded following a competitive tendering exercise in compliance with EU regulations from 1 April 2007. The costs of this contract and managing the corporate risk management policy are contained and managed within the Audit and Risk Management revenue budget. Service

departments manage risks as part of the routine work to achieve their business plans and costs are contained within their revenue budgets.

13. Use of appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 – Update on risk registers Quarter 3 2010/11

14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

14.1For access to the background papers or any further information please contact Anne Woods on 0208 489 5973.

15. Background

- 15.1The Council's Risk Management strategy is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it reflects current operational requirements and best practice. The latest version was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 25 March 2010.
- 15.2 The Chair of the Audit Committee requested that a report on risk management and compliance with the Council's strategy in respect of risk registers be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis. The review and testing of risk registers forms part of the 2010/11 annual audit plan which was approved at the Audit Committee meeting on 25 March 2010. This is an ongoing process to ensure the key controls to manage identified risks are effective and operate as intended.

16. Risk Registers

- 16.1 All risk registers are managed electronically at business unit, department and corporate level. Appendix 1 shows the latest position for all Business Units and Directorates as at the end of quarter 3.
- 16.2 The corporate risk register is reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Chief Executive's Management Board and reported annually to the Audit Committee. The last review by the Audit Committee was completed at its meeting on 24 June 2010. The corporate risk register was subject to its quarterly review at the CEMB meeting on 16 November 2010.
- 16.3 During 2010/11, a number of organisational changes have taken place across the Council. The functions of the previous PPP&C directorate are currently managed by other directorates and their risk registers are incorporated into the new reporting structures as follows: Safer Communities Business Unit now reports to the Director of Urban Environment; Policy and Performance and Communication and Consultation Business Units now report to the Assistant Chief Executive People & Organisation Development. Appendix A reflects these changes.

Progress Report Quarter 3 2010/11 - Risk Register Update Summary

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