
Audit and Standards Committee - 10th December 2013

Report of the Treasurer

Review of current Corporate Risks and Corporate Risk Scrutiny

Purpose of Report

1. To update members of current Corporate Risks (as most recently reviewed by Corporate Board).
2. To provide information relating to a particular corporate risk as previously selected by this Committee.

Background

3. At its meeting of the 25th April 2013, this Committee requested it should receive details of Corporate Risks three times per annum. Accordingly, this report constitutes the second such report and a further report will be submitted in February.
4. As part of recommendations brought to this Committee, at its meeting on the 9th July 2013, it was agreed to provide closer scrutiny of the Council's corporate risks. Risk ORG0017- Welfare Reforms- was identified for consideration by this Committee.

Risks currently deemed as 'Corporate'

5. Appendix 1 shows details of Corporate Risks (as reviewed by Corporate Board on the 8th October 2013) and therefore those appearing at the highest level on the Council's risk register. In simple terms, these risks are generally acknowledged as being the most significant facing the Council, impacting upon at least one or several of the Council's key objectives.
6. Corporate Board also receives reports on Corporate Risks at least 3 times per annum and in addition, all Directors continue to review Directorate risks on a quarterly basis which form part of the Quarterly Corporate Performance Report.
7. In addition to risks tabled in Appendix 1, it is acknowledged that this Committee may identify any additional risks that it considers should form part of the Corporate Risks list.

8. This Committee has, at its July meeting, identified a specific risk for scrutiny. The Assistant Director of Finance (Revenues, Benefits and Management Support) and the Assistant Director of Housing Services will be present at the meeting to answer detailed questions on risk number ORG0017 which relates to a number of recent welfare benefit reforms. The intention is not to duplicate the significant scrutiny of welfare reform issues that has taken place at the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee or the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee or to consider decisions that have been made by Cabinet in relation to the Council Tax Reduction scheme. The role of this Committee is to consider how the Council is identifying and mitigating against risks arising from welfare reform.

Finance

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Law

10. The Council has a statutory responsibility for managing risks as laid out in Section 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006).

Equality Impact

11. There are no equality issues arising from this report.

Recommendations

12. That this committee:
- Notes and comments on the Corporate Risks as set out in Appendix 1.
 - Identifies any additional risks that it considers should form part of the Corporate Risks list.
 - Considers specifically the risk relating to welfare reform and associated controls
 - Identifies a particular risk for closer scrutiny the next time a risk report is scheduled (Provisionally 13th February 2014).



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Iain Newman
Treasurer

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