

Audit Committee - 14th February 2008

Report of the Director of Finance

Risk Management Strategy for the 2008/2009

Purpose of the Report

1. This report advises of key developments in the Council's risk management programme in the last 12 months and sets out the Council's Risk Management Strategy for the period April 2008 to March 2009.

Background

2. Good progress has been made with the management of risk in the preceding strategy period. Under *Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry 4.1*. Audit Commission has fully endorsed work undertaken in the past 12 months and an improved score of 3 for risk management (4.1 K.L.o.E.) was narrowly missed. Audit Commission has highlighted two particular areas of work it sees as crucial for the forthcoming strategy period, as follows:
 - Embedding the Risk Assurance Protocol. The "protocol" is a systematic means to ensuring a methodical approach to risk review and is also designed to assist Audit Services with its work on the Annual Governance Statement.
 - Ensuring partnership risks are managed. The Partnership Evaluation Tool (PET), A Guide for Working in Partnership, Partnership Working and Consultation Group and a dedicated area on the corporate risk register are in place to assist with this important area.
3. Member involvement continues to be crucial and a risk awareness session specifically for members has been undertaken. The session took place in October 2007 and was attended by 6 members. Awareness sessions can be arranged at any time by contacting the Risk Manager.
4. The full strategy and an example of the Risk Assurance Protocol pro-forma is appended.

Finance

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

Law

6. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

Equality Impact

7. There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report with regard to:
- The effect of the decision on children and young people
 - Consultation with children and young people; and
 - The involvement of children and young people in developing the proposals.

Recommendation

8. The Risk Management Strategy for the period April 2008 to March 2009, included as Appendix 1 to this report, is approved.



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Director of Finance

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