

Audit Committee – 29th June 2006

Report of the Director of Finance

Risk Management Update

Purpose of the Report

1. This report gives a brief summary of the outcomes of Risk Management Awareness Seminar held on the 13th April 2006 which was facilitated by Brian Rowland of Audit Commission and attended by Members of the Audit Committee and the Cabinet. This report also informs Members of immediate risk management plans, and training proposals.
2. In accordance with the reporting regime that was presented to the Audit Committee in 2005, this report also presents information on monitored risks.

Background

3. The Council's Risk Management Strategy states that Member's involvement in risk management is critical. The seminar held on the 13th April was designed to assist with this important part of the strategy.
4. During the seminar, Members were invited to give their views on the process of ensuring risk management becomes an integral part of all Council processes. Members responded and four key issues emerged, there were as follows:
 - **Training** – Members wanted to have greater understanding of Council's approach to risk management,
 - **Being critical and challenging** – Members should challenge and critically review Council objectives,
 - **Transparency** – Members expect Officers to consider risk implications and that these should be brought to Members attention in a transparent manner,
 - **Analytical** – Members saw the need to carefully analyse reports and look for risk implications.
5. The issues highlighted by Members have been, or are in the process of being, addressed. The most significant are as follows:

- New Members - Will receive risk management training via the induction process. This will be conducted by Audit Commission or the Risk Manager.
 - Existing Members – A similar or updated seminar will be arranged for other Members via the political groups. The Director of Finance, Head of Audit Services and the Risk Manager will organise this within the next few months.
 - Corporate Board will also undertake a risk management session with the Audit Commission in the coming months. This will focus around risk implications within the Council Plan.
 - Dedicated training for Officers involved with partnerships to be undertaken in late June. Demand for places was such that additional an additional day is in place for July.
 - Making Schools Safer – Specialist risk management training for schools is in place. An initial pilot session is scheduled for late June / early July.
 - High risk reporting will remain aligned with, and reported in, the Quarterly Corporate Report and Members should review this information.
 - Officers will continue to bring risk issues/implications to the attention of Members in the background section of any official reports.
 - Details and outcomes of the seminar held on the 13th April 2006 will be shared with the corporate Risk Champions Group.
6. Appendix 1 to this report shows those risks facing the Council where the net risk (the risk after taking into account the mitigating actions) is still high. These risks are regularly monitoring by the relevant Directorate Management Team and Corporate Board. The Appendix also shows certain other risks selected by Directorates for regular monitoring even though they are not evaluated as being of high net risk.

Finance

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

Law

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

Equality Impact

9. There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report.
10. Risk management helps to protect the interests of children and young people, but they were not consulted on, or involved with, the development of this report.

Recommendation

11. That the Committee note the contents of this report.



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Director of Finance

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