

Audit Committee – 10th February 2011

Report of the Treasurer

Risk Management

Purpose of the report

1. This report advises of key developments in the Council's risk management activities in the preceding 12 months and sets out the key priorities for 2011/2012.

Background

2. It is good practice to annually review the Risk Management Policy and Strategy. The Audit Committee approved the Risk Management Policy and Strategy at its meeting on 11th February 2010
3. Risk Management is one of the principal elements of good corporate governance. It defines the culture, processes and structures that help manage potential opportunities for and threats to the Council.

Risk Management activities 2010/11

4. A review has been made of the Risk Management Policy and Strategy and it is considered that no amendments are required for 2011/12.
5. Risks have been rationalised on the Council's Risk Register to improve the effectiveness of reporting and monitoring risks.
6. Good practice guidance for officers has been updated in light of the rationalisation of risks on the Risk Register.
7. A risk management awareness session was conducted with Members for the fifth year in succession in October 2010. This takes the total number of members trained to 30 in the 5 year period.
8. A full market tender for all insurance covers took place in the summer of 2010. In order to maximise premium savings, some modest increases in self insurances, otherwise known as excesses or deductibles were taken. Risk analysis to quantify this was undertaken and was perceived as low risk. Savings of £300,000 compared with existing premiums payable were achieved as a result of this tender exercise.

Priorities for 2011/12

9. .To work closely with Corporate Property Group to ensure any significant changes to the property portfolio are reflected in the insurance programme, thus both self insurance funds and external premiums are saved where possible.
10. Risk Management Funding will be concentrated in areas that assist with the prevention of major losses, e.g. improvements to fire detection systems, fire doors etc.
11. To work closely with Risk Champions and Corporate Board/Cabinet to ensure any significant risks arising out of planned changes to services are managed.

Finance

12. There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report

Law

13. The council has a statutory responsibility for managing risks, as laid out under section 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006).

Equality impact

14. The risk management activities considered in this report have no direct impact on issues of equality.

Recommendation

15. Audit Committee note the contents of this report



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Treasurer

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