



AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 10 March 2020

REPORT TITLE:	RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Council's current risk management arrangements and highlights several key areas of work in the coming year.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To enable the Committee to understand the Authority's most significant risks, the associated mitigating controls and the risk management framework in order to fulfil its role of providing independent assurance of the Council's Risk Management Framework

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Updates on the Council's risk management arrangements have been regularly reported to Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC) following the changes to the Risk Management Policy approved by the Committee in September 2017 and the significant refresh of the Corporate Risk Register in 2018/19.
- 3.2 In light of the short timescale between the January and March committee meetings this report focuses on updating the Committee on other areas of work related to risk management.
- 3.3 The Corporate Risk Register will undergo a detailed review and alignment to the Wirral Plan 2025 ahead of a discussion at a Member Risk workshop and reporting to the next ARMC.
- 3.4 In the year ahead a review of current arrangements will be undertaken including an update of the Risk Management Framework, last updated significantly in 2017. This will incorporate looking at the role and input of key groups including the corporate risk management group, members and champions as well as the training requirements for the different roles.

Business Planning and Directorate Risk Registers

- 3.5 With the launch of the Wirral Plan 2025 services are in the process of developing their business plans. The template has been designed so that each Directorate can record their planned activity for the year ahead including actions, key performance indicators, risks and training requirements. By aligning the Directorate Risk Registers (DRR) with the new plan priorities, and the regular process for monitoring and reporting of the plan, the aim is to ensure a more robust risk register which helps to support decision making and evidence progress through the year.
- 3.6 Work is currently underway on changes to the performance monitoring and assurance reporting to SLT which includes information on risk from the DRRs.
- 3.7 Relevant risks within the DRRs will also be aligned to Corporate Risks to provide a closer link between the two levels of risk register and help to ensure a consistency of reporting and understanding.

Programme Management

- 3.8 Work is underway with the Programme Office to improve the risk management arrangements for the Council's main programmes and projects. A standard template has now been adopted which will allow risks to be escalated more easily as well as provide a consistent approach which anyone coming onto a project will be able to follow. Options for targeted training and awareness sessions for programme and project leads are also being considered.

Member Risk workshops

- 3.9 A series of member ARMC sub-group workshops have been programmed in through 2020 to look at the different aspects of risk management. Sessions have been booked for the following dates: 5th March, 4th June, 3rd September and 2nd December.
- 3.10 The aim of these workshops is to provide members with an opportunity to gain a greater level of assurance of the effectiveness of the Council's risk management framework, a more detailed knowledge of the principal risks and opportunities facing the Council as well as the principal controls and actions planned to mitigate the risks.
- 3.11 The workshop will also help to identify any areas where more assurance is required and training requirements or opportunities for further development.

Training

- 3.12 An elearning package which is currently decommissioned on the Council's WeLearn platform will be reviewed and refreshed in 2020 to provide a basic principles of risk management course for all staff and members.
- 3.13 Three joint training sessions are due to take place in March 2020 with Wirral CCG focussing on the commissioning staff for Wirral Health and Care Commissioning. The session will cover the basics of risk management and how the two partners link and report the risks jointly and through their respective management structures.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no immediate resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Without robust risk management procedures in place there is a danger that the Council will fail to identify, understand and monitor key strategic and operational risks. An ineffective and poorly established risk management framework prevents the optimisation and balanced approach between risk taking and control, leading to ineffective assurance and missed opportunities. The consequence of both is that

risks are not considered in decision-making which could have serious financial, reputation and resource implications.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 None.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None, because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of greenhouse gases.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Risk Management Policy
Corporate Risk Register

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Audit & Risk Management Committee	
Improvements to the Corporate Risk Management Framework	23 July 2018
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	24 September 2018
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	19 November 2018
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	28 January 2019
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	11 March 2019
Update of the Corporate Risk Register	22 July 2019
Update of the Corporate Risk Register	23 September 2019
Update of the Corporate Risk Management Arrangements	18th November 2019
Corporate Risk Management Update	27 th January 2020