

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

SUBMISSION TO ALARM AWARDS 2007

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides information to Members concerning ALARM and its awards programme and describes a submission from the Council in the Asset Risk category.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 ALARM is the Association of Local Authority Risk Managers. Its membership is drawn from many parts of the public sector including local authorities, the Police Service, the Fire and Rescue Service, universities, housing associations and health authorities and trusts. It aims to make a positive contribution to loss reduction by pooling the knowledge and experience of its members, sharing examples of good practice and working in partnership with other agencies in the promotion of public service risk management. Wirral Council has been a member of ALARM for 15 years.
- 2.2 The ALARM annual awards recognise excellence in the management of risk. Individual categories exist for Risk Manager of the Year, People Risk, Asset Risk, Strategic Risk and Operational Risk. The award in each category is sponsored by a private sector supplier of risk management services.
- 2.3 Submissions are evaluated in a two stage process by representatives from the award sponsor, members of the ALARM board and an independent academic.

3. WIRRAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION

- 3.1 The Risk & Insurance team has submitted an entry in the Asset Risk category. This award is for an initiative that significantly improves the management of risks associated with any asset of the organisation excluding people risks.
- 3.2 The submission relates to a risk based approach to managing liability claims. It describes the fundamental review of the approach to managing claims, the innovative processes for procuring insurance claims handling and legal defence services and managing suppliers' performance, joint working with public and private sector partners and a comprehensive approach to addressing insurance claims fraud

3.3 The results of this approach in terms of increases in the percentage of claims that the Council is able to defend, lower numbers of claims submitted, a reduction in overall claims costs and recognition in the local and national media has been reported to Members previously.

3.4 A full copy of the submission is shown at Appendix 1.

4. THE AWARDS CEREMONY

4.1 The entry was sent to ALARM on 30 April 2007.

4.2 I was notified on 24 May 2007 that the submission has been chosen as one of the finalists in the Asset Risk category. This is particularly pleasing as ALARM has received a record number of entries this year.

4.3 The winner will be announced at the Awards Dinner in Cardiff on Monday 2 July 2007. Status as a finalist means that as a minimum Wirral will be "highly commended" and presented with an appropriate framed certificate.

4.4 The Council is entitled to one free place at the Awards Dinner. Representatives from the Risk & Insurance team will also be attending.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cost of transport and accommodation can be met from the existing Insurance Fund budget.

6. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no direct equal opportunities implications

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

8.1. Not applicable

9. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None.

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 Previous reports to Cabinet and to Audit & Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 10.2 Wirral Council Figtree claims database and Excel statistical analysis.
- 10.3 Documentation for procurement of insurance, claims handling and legal defence services.
- 10.4 Service level agreements for suppliers.

11. **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. None

12. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1. That the Committee determines if it wishes to send a Member to the Awards Ceremony.
- 12.2. That attendance be referred to the Cabinet for approval of duty.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE