

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2015

SUBJECT	CORPORATE RISK REGISTER
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Under the terms of the Council's Constitution one of the functions of the Audit & Risk Management Committee is to provide independent assurance that the Council's risk management framework is effective.
- 1.2 A key output from the Council's risk management framework is the Corporate Risk Register. To support this Committee's work in considering the effectiveness of the framework a report is now presented on a regular basis detailing the key risks facing the authority and how these are being managed.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Corporate Risk Register summarises those areas of uncertainty which have greatest potential to prevent or frustrate delivery of the Corporate Plan and confirms how the authority is seeking to tackle them. At a strategic level these risks help to inform future priorities and interventions. The actions required to mitigate the risks also influence the content of Directorate Service Plans and the allocation of resources. In that way they are a key component of the corporate planning process and so success in managing these risks is a key factor in overall corporate performance.

2.2 Existing Corporate Risks

- 2.2.1 Following the Quarter 2 review undertaken by the Chief Executive Strategy Group (CESG) and which was reported to this Committee on 25 November 2014 the register contained 31 risks.

2.3 Developments

- 2.3.1 At its meeting on 24 November 2014 CESG received a report from the Director of Adult Social Services. This concerned the impact of a Supreme Court decision earlier in the year that arrangements made for the care or treatment of individuals lacking capacity to consent to them could amount to a deprivation of liberty. The decision had led to an enormous rise in the number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding assessments which needed to be undertaken. A failure to process these assessments within prescribed timescales could generate a series of costly legal actions against the authority as well as potential damage to the Council's reputation.
- 2.3.2 There was agreement amongst the group that the potential significance of the risk was such that it merited addition to the corporate risk register.

2.4 Governance Commissioning and Improvement Portfolio Holder Briefing

2.4.1 At the request of Councillor Ann McLachlan the Risk & Insurance Officer presented an update on the Corporate Risk Register at the briefing on 3 December 2014. The update covered matters added to the register in recent months as well as the governance arrangements for the register itself.

2.4.2 The Chief Executive recommended that the Risk Register be a standing agenda item for future Portfolio Holder Briefings and that a small number of the most critical risks be examined in detail on each occasion. Councillor McLachlan agreed that this recommendation should be implemented.

2.5 Corporate Governance Group

2.5.1 In accordance with its agreed terms of reference at its meeting on 17 December 2014 the Corporate Governance Group considered two reports from the Risk and Insurance Officer.

2.5.2 The first contained a summary of all critical ('red') Directorate level risks highlighting those which are expected to remain critical even with additional planned mitigation. This report will also be provided to CESG to support the Quarter 3 review of the Corporate Risk Register.

2.5.3 The second contained a summary of progress made in relation to the management of all existing corporate risks. A copy of that report is appended for Members consideration. This too will be provided to CESG to support the Quarter 3 review.

2.6 Next Steps

2.6.1 The Chief Executive Strategy Group will shortly conduct the Quarter 3 review of the register. The outcome will be reported to the next meeting of this committee.

2.6.2 At the Portfolio Holder Briefing on 28 January the first two corporate risks will be considered.

2.6.3 Directorates will take account of the Corporate Risk Register in developing service plans for 2015/16.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The issues contained in the register are considered by Chief Executive Strategy Group to present the most significant risks to achievement of the objectives and priorities contained in the Corporate Plan. As such failure to manage them effectively could have severe implications for delivery of the Plan.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 These are not applicable in respect of this report.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 No specific consultation has been undertaken with regard to this report.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 None.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 None.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 Whilst there are no direct implications effective management of the corporate risks will help to mitigate negative impacts on the Council's financial IT and human resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 That Members consider the summary of progress made in relation to the management of the existing corporate risks.

13.2 That further reports on the Corporate Risk Register be brought to future meetings of this Committee.

14.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 Having an understanding of the Council's principal risks and their controls supports the Committee's responsibility in relation to the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework.

14.2 The provision of regular reports to this Committee on the Corporate Risk Register is a requirement of the Council's Corporate Risk Management Policy.

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APPENDIX

Corporate Risk Register – summary of progress with controls

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

Report to Corporate Governance Group 17 December 2014
Agenda and minutes from the Corporate Governance Group
Agenda and minutes from the Chief Executive Strategy Group

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Audit & Risk Management Committee	25 November 2014
Audit & Risk Management Committee	17 September 2014
Audit & Risk Management Committee	23 June 2014
Audit & Risk Management Committee	18 March 2014