

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT	CORPORATE RISK REGISTER
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 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 3 review undertaken by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) and which was reported to this Committee on 18 March the register contained 32 risks.

2.3 Review Quarter Four 2014/15

- 2.3.1 The Risk and Insurance Officer collated information on progress towards the implementation of key additional controls for all current corporate risks as at 31 March 2015. That information was summarised in an Appendix to Corporate Risk Report presented to this committee on 8 June.
- 2.3.1 The above mentioned summary and the Quarter 4 Corporate Risk report were considered by the Strategic Leadership Team its meeting on 16 June. The report summarised high level risks within Directorate risk registers with an emphasis on those where officers believe that further mitigation will prove difficult.

2.3.2 The report invited SLT to evaluate the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which had been added to the corporate risk register at the Quarter 3 review. Likelihood was assessed at 3 and impact at 5. This gives a total score of 15 making this one of the most significant corporate risks.

2.4 Review Quarter One 2015-16

2.4.1 Information in the corporate risk register concerning key additional controls was updated with relevant projects and activities identified in Directorate plans for 2015/16 and specific actions being taken by individual teams.

2.4.2 The Risk and Insurance Officer collated information on progress towards the implementation of these controls as at the end of quarter one. That information is summarised in the appendix to this report.

2.4.3 That information and a draft of the Quarter 4 Corporate Risk report were considered by the Corporate Governance Group at its meeting on 30 July.

2.4.4 Both documents were considered by SLT on 1 September. Progress with additional controls was noted. No changes were made to the scores for any of the existing corporate risks. Issues relating to impending changes to the national minimum wage, capacity and skills to deliver the new Council plan and the possible devolution of powers to the Liverpool City Region were discussed. None of these were topics were added to the register. But they will be revisited at the next review at which point their potential impact should be clearer.

2.5 Governance Commissioning and Improvement Portfolio Holder Briefings

2.5.1 Councillor Ann McLachlan has continued to examine a small number of the most critical corporate risks at each of her briefings. These examinations are structured around a summary from the Risk & Insurance Officer. Other officers with more detailed knowledge of the risks in question are also present to answer questions on the controls their effectiveness and whether further action could be taken.

2.5.2 The meeting in June considered 'Poor lifestyle choices continue to adversely affect public health and require different public provision provision' and 'Increasing demand for socially provided care exceeds the resources available'.

2.5.3 At the following meeting on 21 July the risk associated with the 'growing incidence of extreme weather events' was examined. The risk presented by 'Welfare Reforms was also considered again. It was agreed that a re-energised multi-agency approach to this subject was needed. To address this tackling the impact of Welfare Reform would form an enabling project within the Councils new Delivery Plan.

2.5.4 The most recent meeting took place on 24 August. This considered the risk posed by the 'failure of a major provider or partner leading to interruption of service' and 'technological advance leads to digital exclusion of individuals and businesses.'

2.6 Next Steps

- 2.6.1 The Strategic Leadership Team will conduct the Quarter 2 review of the register. The outcome will be reported to this committee.
- 2.6.2 The Portfolio Holder for Governance Commissioning and Improvement will prepare a report for Cabinet colleagues summarising the outcome of the scrutiny she has applied to date of the most significant corporate risks.
- 2.6.3 A major review of the register will be undertaken to take account of the new Council Plan – a 2020 vision.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The issues contained in the register are considered by the Strategic Leadership Team to present the most significant risks to achievement of the Council's objectives and priorities. As such failure to manage them effectively could have severe implications for delivery of the Council 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 report on progress with management of the 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

2015/16 CRR Controls 300615

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Audit & Risk Management Committee	8 June 2015
Audit & Risk Management Committee	18 March 2015
Audit & Risk Management Committee	27 January 2015
Audit & Risk Management Committee	25 November 2014
Audit & Risk Management Committee	17 September 2014