

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

24 NOVEMBER 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 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 the 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 1 review undertaken by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) and which was reported to this Committee on 22 September 2015 the register contained 32 risks.

2.3 Review Quarter Two 2015/16

- 2.3.1 The Risk and Insurance Officer collated information on progress towards the implementation of key additional controls for current corporate risks as at 30 September 2015. That information is summarised in the Appendix to this report.
- 2.3.2 The above mentioned summary and the Quarter 2 Corporate Risk report were considered by SLT its meeting on 3 November. The report summarised high level risks within Directorate risk registers with an emphasis on those where officers believe that further mitigation will prove difficult.

- 2.3.3 SLT noted that the backlog of applications for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards assessments (risk LE2) had grown within the quarter. However further mitigation planned by the department should reduce this by the end of December 2015. As such no change to the scores or further action was considered necessary.
- 2.3.4 The potential impact of the National Living Wage first discussed at the quarter 1 review was considered again. Given that the Council is a living wage employer this is not an issue in relation to the Council's own staff. SLT recognised that this could be a significant matter for contracted services. However at a corporate level it was viewed as a further pressure for the existing budget risk and not significant enough to be added to the corporate risk register as a topic in its own right.
- 2.3.5 The new Council web-site was successfully launched on 6 October 2015. As a result SLT decided that the existing corporate risk relating to the security and effectiveness of the web-site (DA3) should be removed from the register.
- 2.3.6 A process through which a refresh of the corporate risk register would be undertaken to take account of the Council Plan and Delivery Plan was agreed. A refreshed list of corporate risks should be agreed by the end of January 2016.

2.4 Governance Commissioning and Improvement Portfolio Holder Briefings

- 2.4.1 The Portfolio Holder for Governance Commissioning and Improvement examines the most critical corporate risks in 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.
- 2.4.1 The most recent briefing took place on 6 October 2015. This considered the risk of 'insufficient capacity and technical knowledge to deliver effective and compliant commissioning and procurement'. This risk had been reviewed in March and the Portfolio Holder wished to consider progress. The Head of Procurement provided an update and outlined further developments planned for the future.

2.5 Next Steps

- 2.5.1 A series of interviews will be held with members of SLT and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to support the refresh of the Corporate Risk Register.
- 2.5.2 An analysis of the risks to the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledge projects will also be undertaken to inform the refresh of the Corporate Risk Register.

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

Councils 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 finances 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 in managing 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

Corporate Risk Register Controls as at 30 September 2015

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Audit & Risk Management Committee Corporate Risk Register	22 September 2015