



**Audit and Risk Management Committee**  
**Monday, 24 September 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Improvements to the Corporate Risk Management Framework</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The Council is working to improve its arrangements for managing risk as part of a broader programme of enhancements to corporate governance. My report of 23 July 2018 set out a number of early actions aimed at supporting improvements. This report provides a progress update in relation to those actions and indicates others to be taken in the coming months.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. Members consider the proposed actions.
2. Progress reports on improvement actions are brought to future meetings of the Committee.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The committee needs to understand the authority's arrangements for managing risk in order to fulfil its role of providing independent assurance on the Council's governance regime.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 None. The need to deliver improvements to the Council's risk management arrangements has been recognised by both SLT and this Committee.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In my report to this committee on 12 March 2018 I indicated that changes to the Council's Risk Management Framework needed to be made.
- 3.2 My report of 23 July 2018 described actions that had subsequently been taken to understand and begin to implement changes which were needed. Those actions included an initial discussion by the Strategic Leadership Team facilitated by Zurich which was held on 19 June and which dealt with their goals in relation to risk management, the effectiveness of current arrangements and what changes might be needed to deliver improvement.

#### **Further Developments**

- 3.3 A second internally facilitated discussion with SLT took place on 14 August. This sought to draw out the Team's views on the current most critical risks facing the Council. The discussion and subsequent developments are covered in more detail in my report on the Corporate Risk Register.
- 3.4 To oversee and drive improvements to the Risk Management Framework, a Task and Finish Group has been established. The first meeting of this group was held on 22 August. This considered how issues raised in the SLT meeting on 19 June would be progressed and how the Group would itself seek to identify additional improvements to standards, processes and outputs.
- 3.5 To bring greater capacity and consistency to the management of risk across the organisation a group of risk management support officers has been established. The initial meeting of this group took place on 28 August. This addressed the officers' roles and responsibilities, arrangements for the production of the corporate risk report and training to be provided to assist them in their duties.
- 3.6 A further SLT discussion facilitated by Zurich has been arranged for 18 September 2018. Its aims are to explore in greater detail the Team's responsibilities, their requirements and expectations of the risk management

framework and to draw out their views as to actions that need to be taken to deliver this.

- 3.7 A training session for members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees on risk management principles and practices will take place on 2 October 2018.
- 3.8 Arrangements are being finalised for a workshop for a sub-group of this Committee to provide Members with an opportunity to contribute directly to improvements to the Council's standards and procedures for managing risk.
- 3.9 The risk management component of the Leadership Training Programme for senior officers is being developed with the support of the Organisational Development team. An initial discussion has taken place in connection with a risk management element of a wider training programme for managers in 2019.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The improvements will help to support compliance with the Council's obligations under Part 2 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 Risk management support officers have been identified from the Council's existing establishment.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The discussion mentioned in paragraph 3.3 and subsequent work is leading to the creation of a revised corporate level risk register.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** *Mike Lane*  
*Senior Risk and Insurance Officer*  
telephone: (0151) 666 3413  
email: [mikelane@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:mikelane@wirral.gov.uk)

#### **APPENDICES**

None

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

Correspondence with Zurich Municipal

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Audit & Risk Management Committee Improvements to the Corporate Risk Management Framework	23 July 2018