



AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30 November 2021

REPORT TITLE:	CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (S151 OFFICER)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Council's risk management arrangements and areas of risk management focus over the coming year.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough. It is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is recommended to note the report

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the committee to understand the Authority's most significant risks, the associated mitigating controls, and the risk management framework to fulfil its role of providing independent assurance of the Council's Risk Management Framework.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options considered appropriate as failure to report this information would demonstrate ineffective governance and non-compliance with professional best practice.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Work continues on developing the Delivery Plans and Directorate Business Plans detailing the work programmes required to implement the Wirral Plan 2021-26.
- 3.2 This includes the refreshing of the Directorate Risk Registers and Corporate Risks to ensure that the Council is aware of and understands the risks that have the potential to impact on the delivery of the priorities laid out in the respective plans.
- 3.3 Following the publication of the two reports from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) work is underway to develop the key actions in response to the recommendations.
- 3.4 Future reports will provide more information on these actions. It should be noted that some elements highlighted in the reports have already been completed or are in progress.

Risk Management Training for Members

- 3.5 Discussions are underway with a CIPFA approved trainer to develop a session for all Councillors in January 2022. This will cover the different roles and responsibilities of members as well as the basics of risk management. The aim is to support members in their understanding of the risk profile of the Council and fulfilling various committee roles.

ARMC Risk Sub-Group

- 3.6 The group met on 23rd November and were provided with an update from our Risk Consultant from Zurich on the risk appetite work that has been taking place.
- 3.7 The regular sessions also include an opportunity to look at the Corporate Risk Register in more depth.
- 3.8 The next sub-group meeting is scheduled for January 2022.

Corporate Risk Register (CRR)

- 3.9 The CRR is subject to amendment as the detailed Delivery Plans, Directorate Business Plans and Directorate Risk Registers are updated and finalised.
- 3.10 In addition a face-to-face focus session with the Senior Leadership Team is planned for 6th December to review the risks in more detail and challenge their position on the CRR and mitigating activity.
- 3.11 It is acknowledged that several of the risks and associated mitigation will be impacted by the DLUHC reviews action plan.
- 3.12 The output of this work and associated discussions will be reflected in the next update of the Corporate Risk Register at the January committee meeting.
- 3.13 A copy of the latest Corporate Risk Register is available in Appendix 1.

Other Risk Management Activity

- 3.14 Work continues on developing the reporting of risk registers within the Council's Power BI tool. Appendix 2 is an image showing a snapshot of the risk profile based on the Directorate Risk Registers. This will be refined and updated as the risk registers are updated.
- 3.15 A dedicated risk management approach developed for the Council's regeneration portfolio has been rolled out by the Regeneration Programme Office.
- 3.16 The approach outlines the responsibility of everyone in the Programme Team to identify and manage risks as well as the role of the Programme / Project Manager (PM) to manage the day-to-day processes. Risks are reported and discussed at the monthly Programme Board.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising directly from this report.
- 5.2 The Authority has a statutory responsibility under Part 2 – Internal Control of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 to have arrangements in place for the management of risk. It also forms part of the seven new core principles within the best practice guidance, 'Delivering Corporate Governance in Local Government: Framework' published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Without robust risk management procedures in place there is a danger that the Council will fail to identify, understand, and monitor key strategic and operational risks. An ineffective and poorly established risk management framework prevents the optimisation and balanced approach between risk taking and control, leading to ineffective assurance and missed opportunities. The consequence of both is that risks are not considered in decision-making which could have serious financial, reputation and resource implications.
- 7.2 Risk management arrangements for the Council form part of the key controls for the Corporate Risk 18 – Effective Governance.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to:
- Have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report have no direct implications for community wealth. However, the development of effective corporate risk management arrangements will assist in ensuring that the Council, its finances, and service provision are effectively managed and governed aiding the advancement of economic, social and environmental justice for all residents.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Corporate Risk Register Summary – November 2021
Appendix 2 – Risk Reporting in Power BI

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Risk Management Policy
DLUHC external assurance reviews
Risk Management Approach – Regeneration Portfolio - PMO

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Audit & Risk Management Committee	
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	19 November 2018
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	28 January 2019
Development of the Revised Corporate Risk Register	11 March 2019
Update of the Corporate Risk Register	22 July 2019
Update of the Corporate Risk Register	23 September 2019
Update of the Corporate Risk Management	18th November 2019
Arrangements Corporate Risk Management Update	27th January 2020
Risk Management Update	10th March 2020
Corporate Risk Register Update	16th November 2020
Corporate Risk Management Update	25th January 2021
Corporate Risk Management Update	9th March 2021
Corporate Risk Management Update	5 th July 2021
Corporate Risk Management Update	27 th September 2021