

Report To: Corporate Governance

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 2 July 2014

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Barbara Smith / Alan Smith

Report Author: Nicola Kneale

Title: Corporate Risk Register review, April 2014

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The April 2014 formal revision to the Corporate Risk Register. The delay in the report reaching this committee is due to the fact that it was omitted from the forward work programme, which is being revised in order to prevent future omissions.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 To present Corporate Governance with the latest version of the Corporate Risk Register, as agreed at Cabinet Briefing.

3. What are the recommendations?

- 3.1 That Corporate Governance notes the deletions, additions and amendments to the Corporate Risk Register, and has the opportunity to comment.

4. Report details

- 4.1 The Corporate Risk Register enables the council to manage the likelihood and impact of risks that it faces by evaluating the effect of any current mitigating actions, and recording deadlines and responsibilities for further action that should enable tighter control.

- 4.2 The Corporate Risk Register has been developed by, and is owned by, the Corporate Executive Team and Cabinet. The process for reviewing the Corporate Risk Register is as follows:

- Services are encouraged to review their risk registers twice per year (according to the Corporate Risk Management methodology) prior to each Corporate Risk Register review, and also prior to their Service Performance Challenge meetings. Any issues or queries are discussed in the Service Performance Challenge meetings.
- The Corporate Improvement Team analyses all service risk registers to identify any risks of corporate significance, or any risk themes emerging across services.

- Updates on current corporate risks are collected from risk owners, and updates on mitigation actions are collected from action owners.
 - Individual meetings are held with the Chief Executive and each Corporate Director to discuss the risks for which they are lead. Consideration is given to whether the risk remains, whether the scores are accurate, and whether any new risks under their jurisdiction need to be included.
 - A new draft of the Corporate Risk Register is discussed with Cabinet and CET to review existing risks; discuss progress on agreed mitigation actions; discuss and agree new corporate risks; review and update residual risk scores; update existing controls (in light of completed actions); and agree any new actions required to mitigate risks.
- 4.3 The Corporate Risk Register is formally reviewed twice yearly by Cabinet and CET. However, any significant new or escalating risks are brought to the attention of CET (via the Corporate Improvement Team) as and when they are identified. CET then take a view as to whether that risk should be included in the Corporate Risk Register.
- 4.4 Following each formal review of the Corporate Risk Register (twice per year), the revised document is presented to the Corporate Governance Committee.
- 4.5 Actions identified to address corporate risks are included in Service Plans (where appropriate), which enables Performance Scrutiny Members to monitor progress. Any performance issues in relation to the delivery of these activities should be highlighted as part of the Service Performance Challenge process.
- 4.6 The council's Internal Audit function provides independent assurance on the effectiveness of the internal control procedures and mechanisms in place to mitigate risks across the council. It also offers independent challenge to ensure the principles and requirements of managing risk are consistently adopted throughout the council. Internal Audit Services also use information from our service and corporate risk registers to inform its forward work programme.
- 4.7 An annual review and report on progress of the risk management policy (produced for the Corporate Governance Committee) will identify weak areas that need to be strengthened to improve the risk management process.
- 5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**
- 5.1 The purpose of the Corporate Risk Register is to identify the potential future events that may have a detrimental impact on the council's ability to deliver its objectives, including its corporate priorities. The identified controls and actions are therefore crucial to the delivery of the corporate priorities.
- 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**
- 6.1 The cost of developing, monitoring and reviewing the Corporate Risk Register is absorbed within existing budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

7.1 This Corporate Risk Register documents identified risks, and current and proposed mitigating actions. The process of developing and reviewing the document itself does not impact adversely on any people with protected characteristics. However, any new process, strategy or policy arising as a result of a mitigating action should be equality impact assessed at service delivery level.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 Details of the consultation process to review the Corporate Risk Register are contained in paragraph 4.2.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from the process outlined in this report for developing, monitoring and reviewing the Corporate Risk Register.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 The main risk associated with the risk management process is that the registers are not regularly reviewed and do not therefore become a dynamic and meaningful management tool. However, the new process is fully integrated into the council's performance management framework, which should ensure that this does not happen.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.