

REPORT TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 3rd December 2014

Report of: Corporate Manager (Policy, Communications and Community Engagement)

Title: Corporate Risk Register

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Risk Management is an important element of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance. Regular monitoring of the Council's corporate risks helps to ensure that the Council's business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

1. What is the report about?

The report advises the Committee of the Council's risk management progress and presents the updated Corporate Risk Register (Appendix A).

2. Recommendations:

That the Committee reviews the updated Corporate Risk Register.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

To comply with the Council's Risk Management Policy which states that this Committee is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of risk management throughout the Council and regularly reviewing the Corporate Risk Register.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

Assistant Directors, Corporate Managers and other officers, as appropriate, are asked to update the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis. The register is also reviewed by the Chief Executive and Growth Director and the Deputy Chief Executive. This process is facilitated by the Policy, Communications and Community Engagement team.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

Amongst the risks set out are a number of areas relating to finance. I am comfortable at the moment that the mitigations in place and proposed, will reduce the risk to the Council.

6. What are the legal aspects?

None

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

No issues.

8. Report details:

The Corporate Risk Register provides details of those risks which could have a major impact on the city or the Council and need to be monitored and managed at a senior management/political level. Risks which could have an impact on a service, but which would not necessarily impact on a council-wide or city basis, are contained in the operational risk register and managed by Assistant Directors and Corporate Managers.

Assistant Directors, Corporate Managers, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Chief Executive and Growth Director have reviewed the Council's risks. The Corporate Risk Register has been updated to reflect this.

Removal of risks

The following risks will be removed from the Corporate Risk Register:

13/008 – *Voids repair budget overspend.*

13/015 – *Loss of Arts Council of England Major Partner Museum (MPM) funding.*

13/020 – *Systems thinking is not captured across the Council.*

New risks

The following new risks have been identified:

- 13/032 - *Back log of land charge searches*
- 13/030 - *ICT Shared Service (Strata)*
- 13/38 and 13/40 – *impact of the economic climate and the imminent introduction of Universal Credit.*
- 13/034 – *Business Rate Growth*
- 13/042 – *RAMM Audit*
- 13/041 – *Channel Shift*

Risk Audit

Internal Audit has recently inspected the Council's risk management arrangements. A number of recommendations have been made to help improve the existing process and procedure. The report will be going before SMT for consideration. The key recommendations are detailed below:

- That every service has its own operational service risk register.
- That all staff are trained in the Council's risk management policy and procedures
- That Members become more involved in the risk identification process

A further update will be provided to the next Audit and Governance Committee, after SMT have considered and responded to the recommendations made.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

This decision helps to ensure the delivery of the Council's purpose 'Well Run Council'.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

Any risks should be captured in either this document or the operational risk register. However, as a result of the recent Audit of the Council's Risk Management Policy and Procedure, a number of recommendations for improvement have been made (see Risk Audit above). A further update will be provided at the next Audit and Governance Committee.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

The decision to regularly review the Corporate Risk Register will ensure that any risks or issues identified under the above headings will be identified and managed at a senior level. Most of the risks contained within the Corporate Risk Register would have an impact on one or more of the headings identified above.

12. Are there any other options?

Options on how the risk management process and procedure can be improved are being considered in response to the recent audit.

Corporate Manager (Policy, Communications and Community Engagement)

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquires:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 2.3
01392 265275