

## **REPORT TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: 11 March 2020**

**Report of: Chief Executive and Growth Director**

**Title: Corporate Risk Register**

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Is this an Executive or council function?**

Risk management is a 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
- the Risk Management Policy

#### **3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

To comply with the council's Risk Management Policy which states that this committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the Council's risks and reporting all new and updated risks to the Chief Executive and Growth Director.

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

Directors and Senior Managers, as appropriate, are asked to update the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis. The register is reviewed regularly by the Chief Executive and Growth Director, the Strategic Management Board and the Health and Safety Board. This process is facilitated by Executive Support.

#### **5. Section 151 Officer comments:**

The significant financial risks to the council have been consolidated under the risk 'Maintaining the Financial Sustainability of the Council'. I am comfortable at the moment that the mitigations in place and proposed, will reduce the risk to the council. However, continued uncertainty and the high level of savings that remain to be identified require a firm action plan in readiness for the 2021-22 budget.

#### **6. What are the legal aspects?**

None identified

## **7. Monitoring Officer's comments:**

The council has a robust system of internal control designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

There is an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise risks to the achievement of Council policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

## **8. Report details:**

The council has recently undertaken a full review of its Corporate Risk Register. There were two important reasons for doing this:

- The register contained a mixture of strategic and operational risks and Strategic Management and Audit and Governance were discussing risks which could be managed at a service level. This was not a good use of resources.
- The register had, historically, been designated a Part 2 item. Members of the Audit and Governance Committee asked for this to be reviewed and for the register to be reported and discussed under Part 1 to ensure openness and transparency.

The Strategic Management Board have worked with the council's insurers, Zurich, to review the Corporate Risk Register

As a result of the review, the Strategic Management Board have identified those risks which, if they materialise, could have a significant impact on the city or the council. Each of these risks have been assigned ownership to a member of the Strategic Management Board to ensure strategic accountability and oversight.

The updated Corporate Risk Register can be viewed at Appendix A.

In response to a question raised at the last Audit and Governance Committee the council's updated Risk Management Policy is also included with this report. The policy has been updated to explain the difference between the Corporate Risk Register maintained by the Strategic Management Board and the Operational Risk Registers maintained by Corporate Managers and Service Leads. The policy also explains how potential corporate risks are identified and considered for inclusion on the Corporate Risk Register.

## **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.

## **11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)**

- 11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:  
eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.
- 11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.
- 11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because  
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. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:  
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.
13. Are there any other options?  
N/A

## **Chief Executive and Growth Director**

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)  
Background papers used in compiling this report:-  
None

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