

## AUDIT COMMITTEE – 22 February 2019

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Risk Management and Corporate Risk Register Update</b>	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Laura Pattman, Strategic Director for Finance	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
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<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	To note the update on actions and progress made to review existing processes and embed Risk Management across the Council.	
<b>2</b>	To note the risks identified on the Corporate Risk Register.	
<b>3</b>	To identify any risks requiring additional assurance for review with the risk lead at a future Audit Committee meeting.	

### **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Audit Committee's risk management role is to provide assurance on the adequacy of the Council's Risk Management Framework and the associated control environment by reviewing the mechanisms for assessing and managing risk. This includes ensuring that relevant managers undertake active risk management. This report presents an update on Risk Management and the latest review of the corporate risks faced by the Council.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

#### **2.1. Risk Management Update**

- 2.1.1. The Council appointed a Principal Risk Specialist in October 2018, this post had previously been vacant for three years. A review of Risk Management across the Council was completed in November 2018 and an action plan created. The primary functions of the Principal Risk Specialist are to manage the Corporate Risk Register and support in embedding Risk Management across the Council.

## **Current Position**

- 2.1.2. The review found that risks were being identified and managed by departments, however, departmental Risk Registers were not consistent across the Council and links between these and the corporate risk register were unclear. A Risk Management Framework was approved by the Audit Committee in April 2018 and is due for review in 2019.

## **Progress so far**

- 2.1.3. During December 2018 and January 2019, the Insurance and Risk Manager and Principal Risk Specialist met with all department risk champions to review departmental risk registers and attended Departmental Leadership Team meetings to discuss Risk Management approach and agree risk development and support.
- 2.1.4. The Principal Risk Specialist has worked with risk champions to review and update risk registers and identify risks for escalation to the Corporate Risk Register.

## **Next steps**

- 2.1.5. An updated Risk Management Framework will be developed and supported by risk guidance and templates for colleagues. The approved policy and documents will be made available to staff via a Risk Management section on the intranet.
- 2.1.6. The Corporate Leadership Team will consider risk management across the Council and the approach within each department. Risk workshops will then be held at extended Departmental Leadership Team meetings for all departments to support implementation of the updated Risk Management Framework and review existing risk registers against department priorities.
- 2.1.7. A Corporate Risk Group will be established to review all identified and emerging risks for the corporate risk register. The group will be chaired by the Strategic Director of Finance and membership will include one Director from each department and all departmental risk champions.
- 2.1.8. The Principal Risk Specialist and Insurance and Risk Manager will complete a review of all strategic risk across the Council and if appropriate, a Council assurance framework will be developed.

## **2.2. Corporate Risk Register Update**

- 2.2.1. Corporate risks have been reviewed and updated by the risk leads. An overview of risk changes is included as Appendix 1 and the Corporate Risk Summary is included as Appendix 2.

## **3 BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

- 3.1 None

## **4 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 4.1 None