
Report To:	Audit Committee	Date:	25.08.09
Report By:	Corporate Director Improvement and Performance	Report No:	AC/17/09/PW/APr
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Subject:	RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on progress made with regard to risk management since the Audit Committee on 28 April 2009. The report aims to support members in discharging their responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of risk management across the organisation.
- 1.2 Progress on risk management requires to be monitored because of its importance to the Council's Corporate Governance Framework.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Since the last Audit Committee report, the following key tasks have been undertaken:
- The Corporate Risk Management Group met on 12 May and 23 June 2009 to discuss pertinent risk matters including service risk registers and business continuity planning and to review progress made against the action plan for embedding risk management across the Council.
 - A Risk Assessment and Prioritisation framework has been approved for the Council. Plans are in place to roll this out across Services during 2009/10. It is intended that the Risk Management Strategy will be reviewed and updated in light of this development by 31 March 2010.
 - The Crisis and Resilience Management Team (CRMT) met on 13 and 23 May 2009. Representatives from all Directorates attended. Focus was given by the group to reviewing the recent H1N1 flu cases.
 - A separate sub-group was formed to review the Council's approach to dealing with the H1N1 flu cases to ensure consistent processes were developed in supporting citizens and businesses in the local community.
 - A number of facilitated workshops have been arranged to finalise service business continuity plans in September 2009. These will then be reviewed to inform and refine the Council's strategic business continuity plan.
 - Project Management Framework and Guidelines have been developed which include risk management as a key requirement for all projects. The framework will be rolled out on a phased basis across all services over the coming months.
 - The new structure for the Internal Audit Team was approved by P&R Committee on 26 May 2009. The new structure includes the post of Corporate Risk Advisor which will strengthen the existing risk management resources for the Council and accelerate progress in addressing the future actions required to embed risk management across the Council.

2.2 Future actions will include:

- Embedding a regular review and update process within Services on their Risk Registers and, in particular, how planned mitigations are being implemented and when they are due to be implemented.
- Reviewing corporate, directorate and service risk registers to determine the overall approach to risk management ensuring strategic and operational risks are correctly aligned and appropriate reporting mechanisms are in place to fully embed the process in the wider strategic planning and performance management framework.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Members review and note the progress on risk management in the period since the April 2009 Audit Committee meeting.

Paul Wallace
Corporate Director
Improvement and Performance

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 There have been increasing pressures for public sector bodies to adopt formalised approaches to risk management.
- 4.2 In its Code of Practice, Audit Scotland makes it clear that the audited bodies are responsible for developing systems of internal control, including risk management, and for conducting annual reviews of the effectiveness of the system of internal control.
- 4.3 The Council has developed a Risk Management Strategy which will deliver a consistent, effective framework and approach for managing risks across the organisation at all levels and support the achievement of the corporate outcomes.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal: None
Finance: None
Personnel: None
Equalities: None

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Discussions have taken place with relevant officers in the review and update of risk registers.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Annual Risk Management Report 2008/2009. By Andi Priestman. Chief Internal Auditor.
- 7.2 Corporate, Directorate and Service risk registers. Available from Andi Priestman. Chief Internal Auditor.
- 7.3 Risk Management Strategy. Approved by Members June 2007.