
Report To:	Audit Committee	Date:	21 August 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	AC/48/12/AF/APr
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Subject:	Annual Review of Risk Management Activity 2011/2012		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Committee progress made in 2011/2012 in developing and monitoring a strategic approach to managing risks faced by the Council.
- 1.2 This approach forms part of the Council's overall Corporate Governance Framework and will be integral to the approach for BV2.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 During 2011/2012 the Council continued to value the importance of maintaining the momentum on risk management and progress has been made in the following areas:
 - Ongoing review and update of strategic and operational risk registers and provision of summary information to Audit Committee;
 - Ongoing training of members in Corporate Governance arrangements, including risk management;
 - Rolling out the Risk Management Strategy to Services as part of ongoing risk register reviews to allow management to better appreciate their role in managing the strategic and operational risks in their particular area of responsibility;
 - Regularly reviewing and updating the Corporate and Service Risk Registers for the Council;
 - Reviewing the risk register in conjunction with partners in relation to the updated Single Outcome Agreement;
 - Maintaining a risk register for the Financial Strategy which allows management to consider the risks to the overall financial position arising from matters contained within the Financial Strategy;
 - Implementing risk management as a key aspect of the Directorate Planning Process;
 - Maintaining a risk register for the Property Asset Management Strategy; and
 - Continuing the advancement of emergency planning, crisis management and business continuity within the Council and fulfil the Council's legislative requirements under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 in conjunction with the Joint Civil Contingencies Service.
- 2.2 It is considered important to actively progress the risk management process to achieve further improvement, and key actions to be taken include:-
 - Rolling out the corporate framework for Project Management to relevant managers which will ensure that a consistent, proportionate approach is in place to ensure the successful delivery of projects. The framework includes risk management as a key requirement for all projects and is supported by the launch of an e-learning module in 2011-2012;
 - 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; and
 - Recruiting a Corporate Risk Advisor to support the ongoing development of risk management.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members note the progress made in 2011/2012 in developing, implementing and monitoring a coherent corporate approach to managing risks faced by the Council, and the actions required to maintain this level of progress during 2011/2012.

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Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration and Resources

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The role of Internal Audit in Risk Management is defined as contributing to the management of risk by evaluating and providing assurance on risk management processes. The assurance extends principally to two main areas, firstly that major business risks are being managed and secondly that the Risk Management and Internal Control Framework is operating effectively.
- 4.5 The responsibility for managing risk lies not with Internal Audit but with service management, with corporate consistency being supported through the Corporate Risk Management Group.
- 4.6 Internal Audit allocated time within the 2011/12 Internal Audit Plan to undertake detailed Risk Management work in the undernoted areas:-
- Progression of Council Wide Risk Management Initiatives;
 - Review of Risk Management within Key Business Initiatives; and
 - Continuous development work on Risk Registers and Business Continuity Plans.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 None

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Risk Management Progress Reports to Audit Committee in August, October and December 2011, and January, March, May and August 2012.