

Meeting:	Audit & Governance Committee
Meeting date:	Tuesday 19 November 2019
Title of report:	Corporate Risk Register
Report by:	Head of Corporate Performance

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To consider the status of the council's corporate risk register in order to monitor the effectiveness of risk management within the Performance, Risk and Opportunity Management framework.

It is a function of the committee to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the council, and periodic review of the corporate risk register enables the committee to gain assurance that risk arrangements are effective.

Recommendation(s)

That:

the committee determine any recommendations it wishes to make to ensure effective risk management.

Alternative options

1. The committee could choose not to monitor the corporate risk register; however this would not be recommended as regular monitoring enables the committee to gain assurance that risk is being managed effectively within the council.

Key considerations

2. In accordance with the Performance, Risk and Opportunity Management (PROM) framework, it is the committee's role to ensure that risks have been rated.
3. The committee receives the corporate risk register every six months.
4. The corporate risk register is compiled from risks identified at a directorate level, which have been escalated as per the PROM, along with those high-level generic risks which require strategic management. Entries within the corporate risk register reflect those risks identified by management board and are endorsed by cabinet, strengthening their strategic perspective, management response and controls.
5. The inclusion of risks within any level of risk register indicates that officers are aware of the potential risks and mitigation strategies and controls are in place.
6. Each entry within the corporate risk register is scored to provide an assessment of the level of risk. All risks are score based on an assessment of the impact and likelihood. Scoring criteria is set out within the PROM. These assessments are made at two points; before actions are put in place (inherent risk); and after identified controls are in place (residual risk).
7. Whatever level of residual risk remains, it is essential that the controls identified are appropriate, working effectively and kept under review.
8. Two new risks have been identified within the corporate risk register since the last report to committee.
 - Children's operational staffing/workforce – due to significant and specific risks in recruiting operational social workers.
 - Budgets and savings in the Children's and Families Directorate (C&F) – C&F is forecasting an overspend due to an increasing demand in placements for looked after children and care leavers
9. 1 risk has been removed from the corporate risk register since January's report.
 - Market capacity – this risk has been reduced due to the changes made by the Adults and Communities Directorate to the commissioned services as well as the strengths based assessments which have helped to reduce demand.

10. At its meeting of 23 January 2019 the committee raised a number of queries on the risk register. An update to those queries is below:

Action	Progress
The directorate services team leader agreed to arrange for a briefing note which explained why risk number CR.048 (Delayed Transfer of Care [DToC]) had appeared on the corporate risk register at the highest rating even after mitigation.	A briefing note was shared with the committee in March 2019.
It was agreed that the DToC and risk number AWB.029 (Care Home Ratings) be referred to the Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee due to the high level of risk involved.	Both issues were referred to the June Adult and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to consider as part of their work programme - here
The committee requested that the ratings for the following risks be reviewed: CR.36 (Good decision making) – in light of the concerns expressed over the governance of the Southern Link Road. CR.21 (Welfare Reform) – in light of the recent national decisions, it was felt that the removal from the corporate risk register may be premature.	The residual risk rating has been raised to 9 to recognise the current level of risk. The original welfare reform risk was based on the uncertainty of what the potential model looked like. At the stage that the risk was removed from the register, Universal Credit had been implemented and the risk of uncertainty was removed.

11. Previous committee meetings have requested that the directorate risk registers are also available to evidence escalation / de-escalation of risks in line with the PROM framework. These registers are included in appendices b – e. Since the last committee report, these registers have been reviewed and re-aligned to reflect the updated organisational structure.
12. The PROM framework is currently being reviewed following the implementation of the Corporate Support Centre. This commitment was made in the Annual Governance Statement with a completion date of February 2020. As part of this refresh, the approach to risk management will be considered to further strengthen our approach.

Community impact

13. In accordance with the principles of the council's adopted code of corporate governance, the council must ensure that it has an effective performance management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Effective risk management is an important component of this performance management system.

Equality duty

14. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
15. This is a factual report regarding process and therefore we do not believe that there are any equality duty implications arising from this report.

Resource implications

16. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

17. None.

Risk management

18. There are no risks as a direct result of this report. By reviewing the corporate risk register, greater assurance is given that the council manages its risks appropriately.

Consultees

19. None

Appendices

- Appendix A Corporate Risk Register
- Appendix B Adults and Communities Directorate Risk Register
- Appendix C Children and Families Directorate Risk Register
- Appendix D Economy and Place Directorate Risk Register
- Appendix E Corporate Support Services Risk Register

Background papers

None