

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: RESOURCES

CABINET

1 MAY 2008

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To approve the use of a joint risk management strategy, policy and toolkit to be used by both the Council and the PCT; and the use of an Assurance Framework for reporting jointly all high risks previously reported separately as the Council's corporate risk register, the PCT's strategic risks and the high risks associated with the Herefordshire Public Services project.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the combined risk management strategy, policy and toolkit be adopted for use throughout the Council; and**
- (b) the Assurance Framework be used for reporting corporate high risks.**

Reasons

3. The identification and management of corporate risks is a key component of the Use of Resources assessment within the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and will form a major part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment. A robust integrated process across the Council and the PCT will, therefore, assist the achievement of shared objectives to the benefit of the community in Herefordshire.

Considerations

4. A single risk management strategy and policy will set out a common approach to the management of risk with a clear description of accountability, training expectations and process. The proposed Herefordshire Public Services Risk Management Strategy is attached at Appendix 1. There are no significant changes to the way in which directorate, service and team risk registers are to be managed within the Council.
5. Adopting the mandatory Assurance Framework used by all NHS Trust Boards will enable corporate risks for both the Council and PCT to be reported together in a

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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consistent way. The Framework provides a greater degree of scrutiny and accountability for actions and is therefore more robust in its ability to assist in the management of risk than the Council's current risk management arrangements for corporate risks. The proposed Framework is set out in Appendices 2 and 3.

6. Once adopted a new risk register, using the Assurance Framework, will be reported to Cabinet as part of the Integrated Performance Report. The register will include Council and PCT risks that are assessed as being high risks.

Legal Implications

7. None identified.

Financial Implications

8. None identified.

Risk Management

9. The identification, understanding and management of risk is essential for the achievement of objectives, therefore the process and the sharing of risks needs to be integrated.

Alternative Options

10. There are no Alternative Options.

Consultees

11. None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Herefordshire Public Services Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Toolkit.

Appendix 2 – The Assurance Framework Guidance.

Appendix 3 – The Assurance Framework – an example.

Background Papers

None identified.