Herefordshire Council

MEETING:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	29 JANUARY 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	RISK MANAGEMENT
CORPORATE RISK MANAGER	ANDREW REWELL

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To update the Audit and Governance Committee on the current Risk Management process and the way the risk register is used.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Audit and Governance Committee:

(a) Note the joint risk management procedures in place with NHSH; and

(b) Note the way the risk register is used and updated.

Key Points Summary

- As stated within the current Risk Management policy a review of the risk management policy and guidance documents is undertaken annually to ensure that they are fit for purpose. If strategic priorities are to be met and if positive assurances are to be given then a robust risk management process must be in place.

Alternative Options

1 None.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Andrew Rewell Corporate Risk Manager on (01432) 260295

Reasons for Recommendations

2 To provide the Audit and Governance Committee with the assurance that the Council has a robust process in place for the identification and management of risk and that this is providing management with a positive tool.

Introduction and Background

3 Since February 2007 the Council and NHS Herefordshire have had an integrated risk management team. A shared Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Toolkit were approved by Cabinet in May 2008.

4 In April 2009 a review of the existing toolkit was undertaken and along with an internal audit of risk management practices across the Council in 2009, led to revised joint policy and guidance documents being produced, these were approved by Cabinet on 26 November 2009.

Key Considerations

5 The Council follows nationally recognised procedures for the identification, management and recording of the risks that it faces. The process is detailed within the current risk management policy and guidance documents and is a shared process with NHSH.

6 There is a clear path for the escalation of risk to ensure that those which present a corporate risk are clearly identified and reported on in the quarterly Integrated Corporate Performance Report. All Heads of Service and Directors are encouraged to review the risks that they are responsible for, to the achievement of Corporate objectives on a regular basis and to update their risk registers (see attached checklist). Any risks that cannot be managed at any one single level, due to lack of authority, resources or finances, is escalated to the next level. By carrying out this review management can be confident in the decisions they are making.

7 Major corporate projects incorporate the management of risk to the Council, partners, contractor and other stakeholders. The Corporate Risk Manager is invited to sit on such project boards to provide this corporate steer.

8 The introduction of the new Performance and Risk Management System, Performance Plus, will enable the recording and managing of risks to be fully integrated across the authority. Cross checking and matching of risks will be possible, as will the ability to ensure risks are reviewed on a regular basis and mitigation measures put in place.

Community Impact

9 None.

Financial Implications

10 None.

Legal Implications

11 None.

Risk Management

12 Unless the risks to the achievement of corporate priorities are identified and managed the limit resources available cannot be channelled in the right direction, thus resulting in a decline of service provision, reputation and customer satisfaction.

13 The new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process calls for a more robust management of risk across the organisation. Within the Use of Resources assessment one of the three themes, 'Governing the Business' highlights the need to have clear and robust processes in place for managing risks, particularly those relating to partnerships and fraud and corruption.

Consultees

14 None.

Appendices

- HPS Risk Management and Assurance Policy
- HPS Risk Management and Assurance Guidance
- Management Monthly RM Process

Background Papers

- None identified.