

Meeting:	Audit and governance committee
Meeting date:	Wednesday 21 March 2018
Title of report:	Corporate risk register
Report by:	Directorate services team leader

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 the performance, risk and opportunity management framework. Since the risk register was last reported to committee, one new risk has been added and one removed.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the committee determine any recommendations it wishes to make to improve effective risk management.**

Alternative options

1. The committee could chose not to monitor the risk register; this would not be recommended as this would not provide assurance that risk was being managed effectively within the council.

Key considerations

2. The committee's role is to ensure that risks have been rated in accordance with the performance, risk and opportunity management (PROM) framework. The committee currently receives the corporate risk register quarterly.
3. The corporate risk register is compiled from risks identified at directorate level, which have been escalated as per the PROM, along with high-level generic risks, which require strategic management. Entries within the corporate risk register reflect those risks identified by management board and endorsed by cabinet, thereby strengthening their strategic perspective, management response and controls.
4. The inclusion of risks within any level of risk register does not necessarily mean there is a problem; it reflects the fact that officers are aware of potential risks and have devised strategies for the implementation of mitigating controls.
5. Each entry within the register is scored to provide an assessment of the level of risk. All risks are scored based on an assessment of their impact and likelihood, adopting the scoring criteria within the PROM. These assessments are made at two points: before any actions are in place (inherent risk); and after identified controls are in place (residual risk).
6. Whatever level of residual risk remains, it is essential that the controls identified are appropriate, working effectively and kept under review.
7. One risk has been removed from the corporate risk register since the register was last published as part of the end of September corporate budget and performance report and presented to the Committee in November. The risk, CR016 Safeguarding, has been removed from the corporate risk register as the process has been scrutinised by two peer reviews, and is frequently monitored by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, as well as regular performance monitoring within the directorate. This level of scrutiny ensures close management oversight and reduces the level of risk.
8. One new risk has been added to the register at appendix A. This is:

CR040 – Good internal controls protect against fraud and error

Community impact

9. 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

10. 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.

11. There are no equality duty implications arising from this report.

Resource implications

12. There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Legal implications

13. There are no legal implications associated with the recommendation.

Risk management

14. There are no risks arising directly from the report. By reviewing the corporate risk register greater assurance is given that the council is managing its risks appropriately.

Consultees

15. None.

Appendices

Appendix A Corporate risk register

Background papers

None identified.