

Title of report: Managing risk across the council

Meeting: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting date: 26 March 2024

Report by: Director of Public Health

Classification

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All

Purpose:

To consider the report outlining how the council currently manages risk and note any opportunities for improvement

Recommendation(s)

1. The committee determine any recommendations it wishes to ensure effective risk management.

Alternative options

2. The committee could choose not to consider the report, however this is not recommended as managing risk is an important function of council operations

Key considerations

3. In accordance with the council's Performance Management Framework (PMF) and associated Risk Management Plan, it is the committee's role to ensure that risk management is effectively managed and in line with the processes set out in the PMF.
4. Herefordshire Council, like all organisations, faces a wide range of risks. Managing strategic risks is crucial for ensuring the delivery of essential services and achieving long-term goals. The Council recognises that there are risks in everything it does and has a duty to manage these risks in a balanced, structured and cost effective way.
5. Risk Management identifies, evaluates, controls and monitors at regular intervals the council's risk. It is about managing resources wisely, evaluating courses of action to support decision-making and protect the council from harm.
6. The Council currently have a [risk management policy](#) which was adopted in 2020 and sets out the governance framework at the Council detailing roles and responsibilities from the executive level, through to specific staff and individuals throughout the Council.
7. The council currently follows a number of steps around risk management including the identification of risk, addressing risk and monitoring and reviewing risk.
8. Appendix 1 provides an overview of the councils current approach to risk management and opportunities for improvement.
9. Appendix 2 outlines the corporate risk register at the end of quarter 3

Community Impact

10. Effective risk management is essential to the delivery of the priorities set out in the County Plan.

Environmental Impact

11. Risk management is essential to the delivery of the council's environmental policy commitments.

Equality duty

12. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:
13. 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) Facilitate good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

14. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Resource implications

15. There are no resource implications arising from this report, however effective risk management should increase the likelihood of the council delivering its budget.

Legal implications

16. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Risk management

17. N/A

Consultees

Lee Washbrook (Interim Head of Performance), Lisa Evans (Director Transformation, PMO and Corporate Support)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of councils approach to risk management

Appendix 2 – Corporate risk register (Quarter 3)