

Title of report: Update to Risk Management Arrangements

Meeting: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting date: 26 September 2024

Report by: Director of Finance

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To provide an update on the council's approach to risk management arrangements and present the revised Draft Risk Management Strategy.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) The committee notes the activity completed to update the Draft Risk Management Strategy and determines any recommendations to the strategy.**

Alternative option

1. 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

2. Further to the report presented to this committee in March 2024, activity to review and update the council's risk management arrangements has continued, incorporating feedback and best practice from an evaluation completed by the council's external Risk Management Consultants.
3. This external review considered the Corporate Risk Register, Risk Management Plan and Policy. Feedback highlighted that the council's approach to risk management is largely informed by best practice and a small number of recommendations to update language and

descriptions in respect of risks were made. These recommendations are reflected in the updated Draft Risk Management Strategy, included at Appendix 1 to this report.

4. The review also identified areas for improvement to risk management arrangements including a review of the council's risk appetite to inform procedures for escalation of risks, timescales for the assessment of individual risks and the frequency of reviewing and reporting risk registers. These improvement recommendations will be addressed through focused risk management workshops in Autumn 2024 for the Corporate Leadership Team to:
 - a. agree the format of the Risk Register and determine the corporate risks to be monitored and managed (Draft Risk Management Strategy - Appendix A); and
 - b. complete the Risk Appetite Matrix (Draft Risk Management Strategy - Appendix B).
5. Following the planned workshops the Draft Risk Management Strategy will be updated, to include feedback from this Committee, and a final copy will be presented for review and approval.

Community impact

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

Environmental Impact

7. Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
8. Whilst this is a report for information and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the council's Environmental Policy.

Equality duty

9. 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.
10. 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. As this document relates to presenting a report for information, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

Resource implications

11. There are no specific resource implications from the report itself.

Legal implications

12. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report itself.

Risk management

13. N/A.

Consultees

14. None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Draft Risk Management Strategy

Background papers

None identified.