worcestershire
c o u n t y c o u n c i l

AGENDA ITEM 11

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
2 OCTOBER 2020

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Recommendations

1. **The Chief Internal Auditor recommends that the Risk Management update be noted.**

Background

2.   The key risk focus continues to be the Council's response to the Covid pandemic. Work is also underway to update our risk approach and work with directorates to review and challenge current corporate risks and the risk management process.

Risk management 2020/21 – Covid response

3.   Covid risk management is still the focus, with most of our work has been collating, challenging and reporting Covid risks to support silver command. We have found over the period that some risks which had previously been reduced in severity are re-emerging. This is not unexpected and is in line with the national trajectory of the Covid response.

4.   More recent risks relate to the projected second wave and our response. This includes the adult social care impact, supporting children if school closures are required and ensuring resource for the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT).

5.   The red Covid risk is:

- Social care placement availability – diminishing availability of care home beds in Worcestershire. Considering the potential second wave, visitors to care homes are being discouraged. The situation continues to be closely monitored.

Risk management 2020/21 – Corporate

6.   Non-Covid corporate risks are not being collated centrally; we are however confident that these are being managed on an operational basis.

7.   The Chief Officer Group (COG) have requested a Task and Finish Group to work on a new corporate risk approach. We will be delivering a revised process to COG on 12 October and, subject to approval, will implement this and will provide a full corporate risk update to Committee in December. The terms of reference for the group are as follows:

a) To update our Risk and Opportunity Strategy in line with best practice;

b) To review practices, skills and changes required to embed risk management in line with the strategy;

c) To establish a risk rating system which enables consistent management across the Council and allows risks to be assessed and compared;

d) To review the current register and simplify reporting through a more thematic approach that will allow greater cross organisation working, as well as clearer accountability. This should draw the distinction between strategic, significant operational risks for COG and operation risks for managers;

e) To identify a clear and simple Governance framework to oversee, check and challenge, learn from, as well as escalate matters for attention. This should encompass standardisation and only deemed necessary bureaucracy;

f) To suggest a roles and responsibility framework, as well as a training and support programme;

g) To identify clear success factors against which the process can be assessed; and

h) To draw up a series of recommendations for COG to consider that includes a resource and implementation plan that can be monitored by COG and reported to SLT.

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Internal Auditor) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.