

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

4 DECEMBER 2020

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Recommendations

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

Background

2. A revised risk management process has been approved by the Chief Officers' Group and we are implementing the outcome of this report.
3. We are working with operational risk owners to understand their current assessments and refine in line with the new process. This includes corporate risks and those in subject specific registers, such as EU Exit.
4. There is a continued focus on the Covid 19 risk management process through the emergency response process.

Risk management 2020/21 – Corporate

5. The Task and Finish Group reported to the Chief Officer Group (COG) with an agreed process for managing corporate risk. The full report is attached as Appendix 1. The key recommendations are given below:

- The Corporate Risk Strategy to be updated
- Risk training is required for all accountable staff.
- The Strategy will include a standard format and scoring for recording risk to ensure consistency across the Council's services and the appropriate routes for escalation.
- Corporate risks will be thematic and evaluated against current risk appetite.
- The Risk & Assurance Manager will regularly review risks to assess if there are any areas of commonality, share lessons and make recommendations for cross working groups to look at mitigation and action strategies.
- Risk assessment will be subject to review by the Risk & Assurance Manager and Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG):
- Risk should be a formal item considered monthly by Directorate Leadership Teams and by COG on an exception basis.

6. We have been working with operational teams to understand the current risk position. This has identified a wide diversity in the risks which are being managed and the Risk and Assurance Manager is working to confirm the revised process with these teams. We will be testing the new approach with the Financial Services Leadership Team to ensure that the theme classifications and scoring are correct.

7. We are in the process of reviewing the current corporate risk register, which has been maintained at an operational level. There are currently 16 risks which are classified as high and we are working with these service areas to ensure these are clear, current and representative.

8. The EU Exit project maintains a separate risk register and we are engaging with the project managers to ensure that these risks are being effectively managed. There are currently no risks classified as high.

Risk management 2020/21 – Covid response

9. Covid risk management continues to be a key focus. Although we have moved into a second lockdown this has not had a significant impact on the risks being managed.

10. We continue to work with the Covid response team to understand emerging risks, such as distribution of vaccines.

11. The red Covid risk remains:

- a) Social care placement availability – diminishing availability of care home beds in Worcestershire. The situation continues to be closely monitored.

Contact Points

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Supporting Information

Appendix 1: COG Task and Finish Group Report – Risk Management

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.