

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

24 SEPTEMBER 2021

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Recommendations

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

Background

2. Risk management is an essential part of delivering good governance and supports the Council's strategic ambitions. Effective and efficient risk governance and oversight provide assurance that the Council's business activities are enhanced by opportunities, and not adversely impacted by threats that could have been foreseen.

Risk Management

3. The revised risk approach has categorised risk across 10 key themes with associated objectives. To enable more strategic reporting, a risk profile has been created for each objective which is evidenced by directorate risks (see Appendix 1).
4. The next stage in the risk management process is for the individual Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) representatives to work with service areas to develop their risk registers in the same consistent format. We will also consider external and partner risks at an organisational level to challenge and improve our internal governance and controls.
5. The first phase of the new risk management software is now operational, and all data has been transferred over from the original system to produce a thematic Corporate Risk Register.
6. The new risk process will form a key part of the Internal Audit development as we will consider risks when creating the audit programme and individual terms of reference. We will also ensure that risks identified during an audit are fed back into the directorate leads for evaluation and the relevant leadership team and this Committee are engaged in the wider risk process.

Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG)

7. As the risk process is improving the group is starting to expand with the addition of operational leads for Health & Safety, IT, Public Health, Highways and Transport to support the development of consistent evidence-based risk registers.

8. A number of workshops and development sessions are in place to support teams in developing their registers which will then allow the CRMG reps to focus on emerging risks and wider horizon scanning.

Risk Position Update

9. At the end of August 2021, the Corporate Risk Register contained 253 individual risks of which only 3 were identified as high risk for the Council (see Appendix 2). The new approach breaks down previous risks into smaller areas which will increase the overall number of risks but provide us with greater clarity as to why a risk is so high. In addition, each of the 4 directorates plus Worcestershire Children First were asked to rate against 2 risks for each objective to enable us to review specific areas.

10. The majority of risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic have now returned to a business-as-usual approach, however those still needing a coordinated approach with district councils and other partners are still presented to Silver Command. The risks associated with lateral flow kits and vaccines for carers are being closely monitored. At the same point there were 6 risks on the Covid Risk Register of which 1 was high (see Appendix 3).

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Risk profile

Appendix 2 – Risk reporting

Appendix 3 – Covid risk reporting

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.