

Audit Committee – 18 April 2016

Risk Management Update

One risk has been excluded from these papers as it is exempt from publication under paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended (as it contains commercially sensitive information). This risk is contained at agenda item number 12.

1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report provides Audit Committee with an update of the corporate risk register (CRR) to enable the Committee to be satisfied that significant business risks are identified and appropriate action taken to manage these risks. This register was reviewed by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) at their meeting on 3 March 2016.

2. Background papers

- 2.1 Corporate risk register / files/ working papers.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Audit Committee are recommended to note the attached corporate risk register (**Appendix 1**) and comment as appropriate.

4. Resource and legal considerations

- 4.1 The statutory requirements are detailed in the governance section below.

5. Governance and Risk Management

- 5.1 Audit Committee's responsibility for risk management includes the following:
 - Reviewing the mechanisms for the assessment and management of risk.
 - Giving assurance about the process.
 - Ensuring the council meets its statutory requirements, as stipulated within the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (reg 4(1), "the relevant body is responsible for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk".
- 5.2 Audit Committee is also required to ensure that it receives reports on risk management on a regular basis and takes appropriate action to ensure that strategic business risks are being actively managed. This report enables Audit Committee to exercise its responsibilities in respect of risk management by reviewing the current CRR; calling in key business risks for review; and seeking assurance that risk management is thoroughly embedded within the organisation.

- 5.3 Corporate risk management processes continue to be used for the identification and assessment of risks to significant business objectives. The process ensures clear ownership of risks, mitigating controls and improvement actions by assigning accountability to relevant line management.
- 5.4 Risks are usually reviewed within directorates on a quarterly basis to ensure they remain at the forefront of the management agenda; that controls continue to be effective and mitigating actions are being addressed in a timely manner. Executive Directors are responsible for ensuring that corporate risks are managed within their respective directorates. Appendix 2 attached details the headline risks.
- 5.5 At a previous risk meeting at CMT (26 November 2015) it was agreed that risks should show the trend for the previous 12 months rather than the last quarter in order to help manage the risk. This is now reflected in Appendix 1(i).
- 5.6 At their meeting of 3 March 2016 CMT agreed the change of risk owner for corporate risks 3a [Partnership working-Local] and 5 [Loss of community cohesion] be assigned to the Head of Business Change from the former risk owner (Executive Director, Change and Governance). This is reflected in the CRR.

6. Training

- 7.1 Risk management training in the corporate risk methodology was provided to members in December 2015 with two Audit Committee members and two non Audit Committee members attending.

7. Equality implications

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Directorate risk owners have reviewed the risks within the corporate risk register and agreed the risk scores and target risk scores. The council also consults with external bodies such as brokers, insurers, external consultants and recognised bodies such as ALARM, IRM and CIPFA and the CIPFA Better Governance Forum. It is also a member of the CIPFA Midlands Insurance Officers Group.



James Walsh - Chief Finance Officer, 7 April 2016

Authors: Neil Pearson, Insurance & Loss Control Advisor ☎ 650543, ✉ Neil.Pearson@walsall.gov.uk
Pam Cox, Insurance & Loss Control Officer, ☎ 01922 653792 ✉ Pamela.Cox@walsall.gov.uk