

Title of Report: Corporate Risk Management 2018/19
Quarterly Report to 30 June 2018

Report of: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. This report updates the Committee on developments in Corporate Risk Management during the period 1 April to 30 June 2018 in compliance with the requirements of good corporate governance.

Background

2. Quarterly reporting to those with the responsibility for the oversight of risk management issues complies with the principles of good corporate governance. It is also embodied in the Corporate Risk Management Policy approved by Council on 21 May 2013.
3. The report covers progress against the Corporate Risk Management Developmental Objectives for 2018/19 as cited in the Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2017/18 and any other risk management issues emerging within the quarter under consideration.

Development Objectives

4. The Action Plan for the delivery of the Developmental Objectives for 2018/19 incorporating progress to date is shown at Appendix 1, work is progressing as per the plan.

Strategic Risk Management

5. The Corporate Management Team has continued to ensure strategic risks are responded to in accordance with the Risk Management Policy, with risks and controls being recorded for inclusion within the Strategic Risk Register. This is an ongoing process, fulfilling the policy commitment made by the Council to “the ongoing identification and analysis of risks” to inform strategic decision making.
6. Using the Strategic Risk Register, the Audit and Standards Committee will be able to consider and comment upon the effectiveness of the Council’s management of risk.

Operational Risk Management

7. As previously reported, the Council was required to assess the risks of an employee or associated person facilitating tax evasion, following the introduction of a Corporate Offence contained within the Criminal Finances Act 2017. The aim of the assessment was to ensure that the Council had in place reasonable procedures to prevent the facilitation of tax evasion by its employees or associated persons. To ensure the identified risks continue to be managed effectively, with controls being subject to regular review, the Corporate Risk Officer is now working with the risk owners on the transfer of risks to the Operational Risk Register.
8. Operational Risks are managed within Services, with the Corporate Risk Officer providing quarterly risk management monitoring information to Group Management Team Meetings. The information contained in the Operational Risk Register is also readily available to Auditors for when they undertake their Audits. Increased risk management guidance and support has resulted in all registered operational risks being reviewed by risk owners within the last 12 months with 96.2% (352 of 356) of these reviewed within the last 6 months.
9. Where Audit recommendations have risk management implications, the Corporate Risk Officer is available to provide advice and support to the risk owners to ensure the recommendations are implemented.

Risk and Resilience Group

10. The Risk and Resilience Group met 27 June and the following items were discussed:
 - Risk Management and Business Continuity Plans:
 - Update on Strategic Risk Management
 - Update on business continuity plans and collaborative working with emergency resilience team and ICT
 - Publishing of Tax Evasion Statement on intranet and communication to employees.
 - Critical ICT systems:
 - Prioritisation of applications for scenario planning ongoing.
 - Resilience and Emergency Updates, which included:
 - Regent Court - 9 May 2018 – Failure of a water main outside of Gateshead Law Courts led to some minor flooding and loss of water supply to Regent Court in Gateshead. The Emergency Response Team liaised with Northumbrian Water, The Gateshead Housing Company and Social Care Services to ensure resident welfare. The issue was resolved before the end of the day.
 - Regent Court Fire – 10 May 2018 – This resulted in a prolonged evacuation of residents from 160 properties (the largest undertaken within Gateshead) with the first residents returning home on 14 May 2018. A multi-agency approach was taken to provide alternative accommodation and also fulfil transportation, catering and medical requirements.
 - Bedale Court Fire – 20 May 2018 – The Emergency Response Team worked with The Gateshead Housing Company following attendance by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. One property was affected. Coordinated communications were issued to provide information and reassurance.

- Oak Square Fire – 22 June 2018 – Several residents were evacuated from the residential properties with some requiring hospital treatment. The Council's operations were coordinated in partnership with Northumbria Police from the Major Incident Room.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that the Committee note the report.