

Title of Report: Corporate Risk Management 2020/21
Quarter 2 Update

Report of: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources and Digital

Purpose of the Report

1. This report updates the Committee on Corporate Risk Management developments during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020.

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, last approved by Council on 21 May 2013, which is kept under review, and whilst it has been amended to reflect changes in Senior Officer titles since that time, it remains relevant and fit for purpose.
3. The report covers progress against the Corporate Risk Management Developmental Objectives for 2020/21 as cited in the Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2019/20 and any other risk management issues emerging within the quarter under consideration.

Strategic Risk Management

4. In November 2018 Cabinet and Council approved a revised Strategic Risk Register which had been presented to Audit and Standards Committee on 1 October 2018. 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. As part of the iterative nature of the Register, risk owners are asked to provide updates as part of the quarterly reviews which are reported to Committee as part of the quarterly updates.
5. There have been no changes to the Strategic Risk Register in the second quarter. The Strategic Risk Register is attached for information in Appendix 1.

Operational Risk Management

6. Operational risks identified within the Council are recorded on the operational risk register. Work is ongoing to ensure operational risk management activity within services continues to align with service objectives including those risks

specific to operational objectives as a consequence of the Council's priorities in response to COVID 19 and EU transition.

7. Service risk coordinators, whose role it is to support and champion risk management activity within their Services are working with the Corporate Risk Officer to support risk owners with evaluating existing operational risk assessments. The focus of this work is on ensuring the assessments contain the required information to inform management response.

Business Continuity Management

8. In accordance with the Council's Risk Management and Business Continuity Policies, all services are required to continuously assess the risk of their activities being disrupted and to develop cost effective continuity plans.
9. All Business Impact Assessments were reviewed by Services in early March to identify the critical activities in the event of a Pandemic and revise Business Continuity Plans accordingly to mitigate as far as possible any threats to delivery of these key activities that could not be interrupted for more than 5 to 10 days without the impact being critical. This process was revisited in early April to identify those activities where service interruption would be critical if it was for longer than 10 days, up to three months. This Business Impact Assessments are currently being revisited to ensure they adequately reflect and address both the current position and the likely pressures facing the Council as we move into the Winter season.
10. Quarterly audit and risk reports are provided to Group Management Teams which also highlight the activities for which services have developed continuity plans. Issues can also be reported in by Services represented on the Corporate Risk and Resilience Group.

Corporate Risk and Resilience Group

11. The Corporate Risk and Resilience Group last met 5 October 2020, the following items were considered:
 - COVID-19
 - EU Transition
 - Updates from Groups and Services

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Committee note the report and consider the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements.