

Corporate Risk Management: Developmental Objectives 2020/21

Ref:	Objective	Progress to date
1	Continue to develop understanding and awareness of Risk Management by way of best practice through the Risk and Resilience Group and directed training on request.	Risk Management training was provided by the Corporate Risk Officer to members of the Council and the Audit and Standards Committee on 27 January 2020. In addition, support and guidance was available to risk champions as risks were reviewed during the year to ensure they continued to reflect the quickly changing risk environment the Council was facing.
2	Business Continuity Plans will continue to be updated, enhanced and, where appropriate formal testing against incident scenarios and best practice requirements will be carried out.	This is an annual corporate exercise where Service Directors were reminded to review Business Impact Assessments and authorise any subsequent Business Impact Plans. In addition to the annual exercise this was also undertaken in April 2020 and again in November 2020 to ensure plans and mitigation were in place and regularly reviewed in response to COVID-19 requirements and seasonal pressures to provide assurance about the Council's resilience and capacity to avoid any interruptions in the delivery of critical activities.
3	The Operational and Strategic Risk Registers will be subject to periodic review for updates and revisions to ensure the continue to reflect and contribute to the achievement of Council priorities, linking risk management activity to outcomes and delivery.	<p>Risk owners have been reminded to keep risk information up to date. Risk Management updates have been provided to Group Management Teams and the Corporate Risk and Resilience Group.</p> <p>A new process is to be established for risk assessments which have not been reviewed by risk owners within an appropriate timeframe.</p>

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4	Continue to develop risk management performance including comparison with other public sector organisations through the participation in the ALARM/CIPFA benchmarking, subject to membership take up	The Council participated in the 2019 exercise and was compared with 8 other club members. The information obtained through the exercise was used to improve practices within Groups and Services. The 2019 exercise was the last time it was held as ALARM did not undertake this activity in 2020/21. Representation to ALARM have confirmed no plans to hold this in 2021/22 or in the foreseeable future, so options for alternative local benchmarking will be explored.
5	Continue to prioritise Critical IT systems and the links to Critical service functions identified through the revised Business Continuity process.	The Cyber Security Group has held meetings throughout the Pandemic to ensure the resilience of critical IT systems.