

Title of Report: Corporate Risk Management 2019/20
Quarterly Report to 30 June 2019

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 2019 to 30 June 2019 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, 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 2019/20 as cited in the Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2018/19 and any other risk management issues emerging within the quarter under consideration.

Strategic Risk Management

4. In November 2018 Cabinet and Council approved the revised Strategic Risk Register which had been presented to Audit and Standards Committee on 1 October 2018.
5. The Register has now been adopted and will be monitored and any actions reported quarterly to Audit and Standards Committee with any significant amendments reported to Cabinet.
6. A new risk in relation to Climate Change is being discussed with responsible officers to establish the Councils objectives to ensure effective delivery, the risks to achieving those objectives, the mitigations and the planned controls. Work will continue to determine how the risks could be built into operational risk registers and on raising the awareness and general profile of Climate Change Objectives.
7. This Risk Assessment will be presented to CMT before being brought to this Committee for review prior to presentation to Cabinet for inclusion in the Strategic Risk Register.

Operational Risk

8. 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 record in the register the specific objectives which could be impacted if the identified operational risks were to occur.
9. Work is ongoing to ensure operational risks are aligned with Service objectives and to reduce the number of generic operational risks which are currently included. There are 140 fewer operational risks recorded than at this time last year.
10. Several operational risk reviews are underway across the council and in this quarter 16 new operational risks have been identified and assessed.
11. Service Directors and Risk Champions have been supported where requested with training and guidance from the Corporate Risk Management Team.

Business Continuity

12. All Services have now returned Business Impact Assessments and Critical Plans using the new guidance and templates issued last year. Work has now begun to assess these for completeness, accuracy and relevance, following which they will be collated to form a revised Corporate Continuity Plan.
13. The revised Corporate Continuity Plan will be presented to the Risk and Resilience Group for comment and to ensure ownership and will then be presented to the Committee for review once finalised.

Critical IT systems

14. Corporate Management Team agreed to a review of all critical IT systems to enable the Council to corporately identify priority systems for recovery in the event of a system failure/disruption.
15. As part of this work, all Service Directors, in their capacity as Information Asset and Business System Owners were asked to complete a template to prioritise key systems and software applications within their Service. This included information regarding the length of time that the Service could operate without the systems being available and how frequently data would need to be backed-up.
16. Since then, colleagues within IT have worked across the Council to ensure all systems had been captured. The next stage is for the Corporate Risk Management Team in liaison with key IT officers to prioritise this list and advise system owners of likely recovery times in the event of a critical incident. This will enable system owners to revisit their business continuity plans and revise accordingly where a longer system interruption is possible.
17. The critical systems list will be cross referenced against Business Continuity Plans to ensure consistency and to assist the prioritising of all critical systems onto a corporate priority list.

Risk and Resilience Group

18. The Risk and Resilience Group meeting in July discussed:

- EU Exit Planning
- Revised Strategic Resilience Management Framework
- Revised Emergency Response Process
- Counter Terrorism planning update
- Local Resilience Forum Update

Recommendation

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

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