Gateshead Council

**Audit and Standards Committee
25 April 2016**

TITLE OF REPORT: Corporate Risk Management 2015/16
Quarterly Report to 31 March 2016

REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

Purpose of the Report

1. This report makes the Committee aware of developments in Corporate Risk Management during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 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 6 June 2013.

3. The report covers progress against the corporate risk management Developmental Objectives for 2015/16 as cited in the Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2014/15 and any other risk management issues emerging within the quarter under consideration.

Developmental Objectives 2015/16

4. An Action Plan for the delivery of the Developmental Objectives for 2015/16 incorporating progress to date is shown at Appendix 1.

5. A reports is being taken to Strategy Group in April to request Strategic and Service Directors to review both the Strategic Risk Register and business continuity plans an ensure they remain relevant and cover all existing and emerging risks facing the Council.

6. The outcome of the review will form part of the evidence base for the governance framework which feeds into the Annual Governance Statement. A report will be brought back to Audit and Standards Committee in July detailing the outcome of the review.

7. The Council's current Strategic Risk Register is attached at Appendix 2 for information.

8. As part of the review a revised risk template has been developed, an example of this attached as Appendix 3 for comment.

CIFPA Fraud Toolkit

9.   As reported to Committee on the 7 March 2016 the Internal Audit Service were in the process of completing a self-assessment against the CIPFA Counter Fraud toolkit. The questions within the toolkit were structured around the five key areas in the Code of Practice. These are:

- **Acknowledge responsibility**
  The governing body should acknowledge its responsibility for ensuring that risks associated with fraud and corruption are managed effectively across all parts of the organisation.

- **Identify risks**
  Fraud risk identification is essential to understand specific exposure to risk, changing patterns in fraud and corruption threats and the potential consequences to the organisation and its service users.

- **Develop a strategy**
  An organisation needs a counter fraud strategy setting out its approach to managing its risks and defining responsibility for action.

- **Provide resources**
  The organisation should make arrangements for appropriate resources to support the counter fraud strategy.

- **Take action**
  The organisation should put in place the policies and procedures to support the counter fraud and corruption strategy and take action to prevent, detect and investigate fraud.

10.   The self-assessment is now complete and enables a baseline to produce an action plan, which will be used as the basis for the proactive counter fraud work included in the 2016/17 audit plan. The Counter Fraud policy will also be reviewed as part of this work.

Recommendation

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

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