

Subject:	Risk Management Strategy 2013		
Date of Meeting:	16 April 2013		
Report of:	Executive Director, Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Jackie Algar	Tel: 29-1273
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the new Risk Management Strategy 2013, at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The council's Policy & Resources Committee is responsible for the approval of the Risk Management Strategy. However the Audit & Standards Committee has a key role in monitoring the delivery of it.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Audit & Standards Committee note the Risk Management Strategy 2013 at Appendix 1 as approved by Policy & Resources Committee on 14 February 2013.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 One of the functions of the Audit & Standards Committee is to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the arrangements for risk management and internal control. The Risk Management Strategy provides a framework for the management of risk.
- 3.2 The Risk Management Strategy 2013 builds upon the council's previous strategy to help both officers and Members to be risk aware and manage risks and opportunities. Each year the council reviews its Risk Management Strategy to take account of latest guidance and context and to ensure continuous improvement in risk management methods.
- 3.3 The purpose of a Risk Management Strategy is to contribute to the overall governance arrangements of the council and specifically to co-ordinate activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk¹. It therefore needs regular update to be a "living framework" to move with the operating environment of the council.

¹ Based on "Risk Management: Process & Guidelines" BS ISO 31000: 2009 (BSI)

- 3.4 Many aspects of the risk management methodology have not changed because of it being widely understood and integrated into existing processes. The main changes made to the Risk Management Strategy 2013 from the previous year's are as a result of:
- a) Government introduction of changes relating to the transfer of Public Health responsibilities to the council from April 2013. The risk management strategy more overtly reflects this responsibility, however it should be recognised that there has been close work with health colleagues over the years, particularly in the shadow year 2012 before full integration of public health.
 - b) Significant changes to the council's officer leadership and structure (contained in Element 1 of the Strategy).
 - c) Constitutional changes relating to the integration of Standards Committee with the Audit Committee to form an Audit & Standards Committee which now includes independent persons, which has a significant role in monitoring risk management.
 - d) Increased reference to in the "Risk Category Checklist" to reflect the importance of data quality for improving performance, resource planning; and climate change adaptation.
 - e) Increased legislative freedom and financial incentive for the council to proactively develop the economic well-being of the city; this is reflected in the newly introduced "dual risk matrix" (in the Element 2 of the Risk Strategy 2013) to risk assess and manage opportunities.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The work to establish Risk Management as a key element of the council's Performance & Risk Management Framework has involved cross-discipline work.
- 4.2 From 2012 onwards there has been increased working with city partners to assess and manage risks which affect the city's performance and risk management framework. This has led to risk management informing performance challenge and review sessions to better achieve city outcomes.
- 4.3 There are increasing links with local community groups, such as those represented on the Neighbourhood Councils' Working Group, to develop an understanding of risk and opportunities for the City.
- 4.4 Risk Management applies across the multiple ways that the council delivers services and its joint work with external parties.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Risk Management Strategy assists the authority to comply with Corporate Governance Standards and will contribute to the authority's control and risk management assessment for the Annual Governance Statement within the Financial Statements.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 18/02/13

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The role of the Audit & Standards Committee is to note the report. However, effective risk management systems will enable better identification of legal risks, promote their effective management and therefore minimise the council's exposure to potential liability.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 20/02/13

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The council's operating model puts customers at the heart of our activities. The Risk Management methodology includes consideration of and a process to manage equalities implications.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Sustainability means protecting and enhancing the environment now and in the future, including climate change adaptation; meeting social needs; promoting economic success and risk management will be applied to each of these.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct Crime & Disorder implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Risk Management Strategy is focussed on improving the quality and consistency of risk & opportunity management of activities.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 The Risk Management methodology accords with that used by the NHS and has been used to facilitate integration with the new responsibilities transferring from the NHS to the council from 1 April 2013.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 There are no direct citywide implications. The Risk Management Strategy will be circulated for information to Public Service Board partners.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Risk Management Strategy 2013

Background Documents

1. None.