

## **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT**

### **Audit Committee – 14 January 2014**

Report of Chief Finance Officer

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

---

**This report supports the Key Aim of** Effective delivery of the Corporate Plan

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Ramsay

**Contact Officer(s)** Bami Cole, ext.7236

---

**Recommendation to Audit Committee:** That Members consider the contents of the report and approve the Council's revised risk policy statement.

---

**Reason for recommendation:** Risk management is a key indicator of effective management. The Audit Committee is required to consider and approve the Council's approach to the management of business risks, in compliance with its terms of reference.

---

### **Introduction**

- 1 Risk management is a key element of the Council's overall governance and internal control processes. The Council seeks to ensure that its arrangements for the management of business risks across the organisation are robust and fit for purpose. Following the recent review of the Council's risk management framework, Members were previously advised at the meeting in June 2013, of progress made in implementing the Council's operational risk management framework and the steps being taken to implement the Council's strategic risk framework. This report informs Members of further progress made to date and timescales for completion of the process.
- 2 Appendix A sets out the Council's revised Risk Management Policy Statement for Members approval. The revised policy reflects recent developments within the Council's new governance arrangements and new senior management structure. The policy has been discussed and agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and the Council's Strategic Management Team (SMT). Members are requested to consider and approve the policy as the next phase in the implementation of the new framework.
- 3 Members were also advised at the meeting in June that the Council's risk management strategy and strategic risk register are under review, in order to reflect the changes within governance arrangements and the new senior

management structure. The review has been extended to include the new Corporate Plan and the Leader's Vision and Promises. The Council's officers risk group is currently updating both the strategic risk register and risk management strategy to reflect these developments. Both the revised risk management strategy and the updated strategic risk register will be considered and approved by SMT in the New Year prior to seeking the Audit Committee's approval at the next meeting in March 2014.

- 4 In addition to the above, the Council's officers risk group oversees and coordinates the entire process. It also facilitates the dissemination of best practice across the Council.
- 5 Members of the Audit Committee are requested to consider and approve the risk management policy statement.

### Key Implications

#### Financial

- 6 None

#### Community Impact and Outcomes

- 7 A robust risk management process enhances the Council's ability to minimise waste and improve efficiency and to deliver better services and outcomes for the community.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

8. No additional legal implication beyond the Council's duty to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

A robust risk management framework enhances the Council's ability to minimise waste and improve efficiency and to deliver better services and outcomes for the community. The revised risk policy statement sets out the Council's position on risk management and the importance the Council attached to effective overall governance and sound internal control.

#### Resource (non-financial)

- 9 None

#### Value For Money

- 10 A robust risk management process will enhance the Council's ability to minimise waste and inefficiencies whilst maximising value for money.

#### Equality

- 11

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	No	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

### Sustainability Checklist

12 Not applicable.

### Conclusions

13 The report sets out the Council's revised risk management policy statement which takes account of recent developments within the Council and requests Members approval of the revised policy.

### Appendices

Appendix A – Revised Risk Policy Statement

### Background Papers:

None.

### Contact Officer(s):

Bami Cole, Audit, Risk & Anti-Fraud Manager.  
Phone: 01732-227236

Adrian Rowbotham

Chief Finance Officer