

**FINAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
23 March 2006**

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of current developments in relation to the County Council's risk management arrangements.

Background

2. Members will be aware that the County Council's Corporate Plan, 'Wiltshire 2009', includes a summary of the key strategic risks, which are now reviewed regularly at the Corporate Management Board (CMB).
3. In December 2005, the Audit Commission published, as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, a report on the County Council's Use of Resources This recognised that the Council had made significant progress in risk management and highlighted that improvement was needed to:
 - Develop arrangements to ensure that all risks are fully assigned and progress monitored
 - Roll out training on risk management to all relevant staff and members with specific responsibility for risk management.

Main Considerations for the Council

4. Since November 2005 CMB have been reviewing monthly the regularly updated key strategic risks. This process keeps strategic risks in focus and ensures that the position is regularly updated and managed. The latest schedule of key strategic risks is attached as the Appendix to this report.
5. The February 2006 Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) agreed that further scope exists to improve the consistency of information in risk registers, to ensure risks are assigned and progress monitored. The CRMG departmental representatives will be working with their departmental management teams to introduce the improvements.

6. Risk management training, is continuing as part of the County Council's Learning and Development Programme with a series of half-day workshops for service managers. Further measures such as a lunchtime seminar and the use of training software which staff can work through using their own desk-top computers are being considered to broaden awareness of the issues.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

7. No environmental impact has been identified from the issues raised in this report.

Financial Implications

8. There are no additional costs arising from the proposals, although strengthening the Council's risk management arrangements should help bring about improvements in internal financial control.
9. Future measures to extend risk management training options may give rise to additional costs but these cannot be quantified until the proposals have been developed.

Reasons for the Proposal

10. To inform the Committee of developments in the County Council's risk management arrangements, including the management of key strategic risks, and the measures address issues raised in the Use of Resources report.

Proposal

11. The Committee is asked to note the current developments in the County Council's risk management arrangements,:
 - (i) the management of key strategic risks
 - (ii) the measures being taken to address issues raised in the Audit Commission Use of Resources report.
12. A further report on progress will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

Mike Prince
County Treasurer

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the preparation of this Report: None
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