

Risk Management Update

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Audit Committee on the council's approach to risk management and the latest edition of the Strategic Risk Register
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The Corporate Office have been working over to last few months to refine the council's approach to risk management. From this work, a refreshed strategic risk register was presented to Cabinet on the [16th June](#), as part of the year end performance outturn report, alongside the 2014/15 revenue outturn report.

The register has been refined in the light of updated individual service delivery plans - integrating performance, risk, financial and workforce planning - and in the light of benchmarking with other authorities, and risks identified within the overarching Cabinet Office national risk register.

Risks have therefore been drawn from the refreshed service delivery plans and are captured centrally to inform the broader risk framework which underpins the Strategic Risk Register.

3 types of risks are now identified within the register.

- *Critical in-service risks*, which, should they be realised, will have a significant impact on the organisation as a whole.
- *Composite strategic risks*, which are formed from a collection of in-service risks which collectively, would have a significant impact on the organisation as a whole (such as staff capacity and budget management). These risks are compiled into single strategic composite risks (owned by the most appropriate service) and monitored and managed through individual service updates.

The recording of these risks is a new approach recently introduced, to ensure that service updates to these risks are more readily captured within the overall composite risk.

- *National risks* which reflect Wiltshire's preparedness in the event of the most significant risks on the Cabinet Office's [national risk register](#). These are typically captured within the [Wiltshire Community Risk Register](#) managed by the [Local Resilience Forum](#).

Over recent months, Corporate Support have facilitated a bespoke training course on risk management for officers and members and been supporting service areas in the identification, refinement and monitoring of their risks. The Strategic and Operational Risk and Performance Management Boards have also been established to oversee and implement the corporate approach to risk management.

Further work is in train to further refine the underpinning risks in the broader risk framework, working with service areas to ensure consistency in the definition of risks and action planning.

Internal audit have an interest in our risk management approach as part of the '3 lines of defence' approach to audit and have been involved in discussions on the changes and are using the broader risk framework to inform their work programme.

A specific audit of performance and risk management has recently concluded. The interim report has offered a 'reasonable' level of assurance, finding that most areas reviewed are adequately controlled. The report recognised that the audit was undertaken at a point in time when Corporate Support are still reviewing and refining their arrangements are continuing to develop the approach to working with service areas across the authority and managing the performance and risk frameworks.

The report makes a number of helpful recommendations to highlight areas where Corporate Support can build on in moving forward and continue with their development of this approach.

Jason Teal

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16th June 2015