

**FINAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
25 MARCH 2009**

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides information about the Council's risk management arrangements and seeks to inform and consult the Committee on the updated Risk Management Strategy, which has been updated to take account of the new Council.
2. The report provides assurance that risks are being managed within the Council and summarises information on the Council's significant risks.

Background

3. The Council's risk management arrangements are a key aspect of corporate governance which helps the Council to manage uncertainty in a systematic, effective and efficient way. It is not about being risk averse; it is about understanding and evaluating risks and making informed decisions about how threats are managed, or opportunities exploited, to help the Council to achieve its goals.
4. The current Risk Management Strategy was approved in March 2008 by Cabinet. This has been updated in readiness for the new Council and is attached as Appendix A. The update also simplifies the Strategy, taking account of our experience over the last year. The Strategy will be adopted as the policy for the new Council. Approval of the Strategy will be sought by way of the Member Delegated Decision process by the Leader of the Council as the Lead Member for Risk Management. All Members will be consulted through the process with the Strategy being made available on the internet.
5. This report is from the Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) which oversees the Council's risk management arrangements. It produces regular reports to the Corporate Leadership Team and to this Committee, and has updated the Risk Management Strategy. The Group contributes to the Annual Governance Statement.

Main Considerations for the Committee

6. Risk Management Strategy

The Risk Management Strategy has been simplified and updated in readiness for the new Council. It takes advantage of the County Council's Risk Management Strategy, which was new in March 2008 and based on national best practice. The updated Strategy is very similar to that but has been simplified to remove some duplication and to take account of experience over the last year and input from District Council colleagues. Terms have also been changed to reflect the new Council (e.g. replacing 'County Council' with 'Wiltshire Council'). As now, the Strategy is supported by guidance on the Council's intranet. The Committee is asked to consider this updated Risk Management Strategy.

7. Risk Management Training

Risk Management training continues to be available for staff and Councillors. Training is targeted and adaptable to meet service needs, as well as being included in management programmes. In September 2008 Councillors were invited by this Committee to its Risk Management training. Information about risk management will be included in the Councillor Induction Programme for Wiltshire Council.

8. Corporate Risk Report and departmental risk assessment

The key strategic risks were reviewed by Corporate Leadership Team on 23rd February 2009 and a summary is attached as Appendix B.

9. A full risk register for all services is in place and is overseen by the Corporate Risk Management Group. Internal Audit is developing the risk-based audit plan for 2009-10.

10. The next Risk Management Update will be September 2009.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

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

Financial Implications

12. There are no additional costs arising from the proposal.

Reasons for the Proposal

13. To inform and consult the Committee on the updated Risk Management Strategy prior to seeking Member Delegated Decision approval and to inform on the developments and progress in relation to the Council's key risks and risk management arrangements.

Proposal

- The Committee is asked to note position on the Council's risk management arrangements, and to note and comment on the updated Risk Management Strategy.

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the preparation of this Report: None
This is a progress report