

Title: **Risk Management Update**

Lead Member: **Cllr Hames – Chair of Audit Committee**

Reporting officer: **Andrew Brown - Financial Accountant**

Purpose

To provide Members with an annual update on progress with Risk Management for the year ended 31 March 2006.

Background

The Council has been actively implementing robust Risk Management procedures and has in place a Risk Management Strategy (appendix 1), Risk Management Policy, Risk Management Group and Risk Register (appendix 2) detailing strategic and operational risks.

The Risk Management Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 28 July 2004 and revised by Cabinet on 28 September 2005. It is scheduled to be reviewed by the Audit Committee in December 2006.

The approach continues to develop strongly and is subject to an annual review carried out by KPMG the Council's internal auditors.

Key Issues

During the year the following activity took place:

April 2005	a review of corporate plan strategic risks by the Corporate Management Team
August 2005	a strategic risk challenge by the Corporate Management Team followed by regular quarterly progress review.
September 2005	a review of the Risk Management Strategy and annual report on progress for Corporate Management Team and Cabinet
October 2005	as part of the Service and Resource Planning process all operational service risks were reviewed by Service Managers
January 2006	delivery of a Member Risk Management Training workshop

Action Plan for future work

- Strategic Risk assessments to be reviewed quarterly by Corporate Management Team.
- Annual review on the Council's approach to risk management to be carried out by KPMG.
- Training to Team Leaders and other staff and the development of guidance for when risk occurs to be provided by the Risk Management Group.
- A corporate robust approach to the management of partnership risk to be implemented.
- A review of operational service risks by the Risk Management Group.

Effect on strategies and codes

Robust risk management arrangements are an essential part of the internal control environment, good Corporate Governance and necessary to ensure that the strategic objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan are met.

Risk management implications

These are referred to the report

Finance and performance implications

There are no financial implications.

Legal and human rights implications

There are no direct legal or human rights implications.

Next steps

The Council continues to embed risk management principles across the organisation.

Recommendations

The audit committee notes recent activity with regard to the Council's Risk Management and approves the action plan for futures work.

Background Papers:

Final Accounts Working Papers – Room 33