

Corporate Risk Report

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Risk and Assurance Team have completed a quarterly review of the operational and strategic risks identified facing Wiltshire Council. This report is to demonstrate and give assurance to the Audit Committee that risk management processes are being applied throughout the organisation.

BACKGROUND

A key component of the Council's Risk Management Strategy in relation to Audit Committee is to demonstrate that a regular review of the strategic risks which affect the Council corporately is undertaken. The review is carried out by senior officers, supported by members of the Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG), and gives consideration to any changes which may have affected the risk and any opportunities that can benefit the council and its partners and stakeholders from the proper management of those risks.

MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

The Corporate Risk Register (**Appendix A**) highlights the current risks that have a potential strategic impact upon the direction of the Council. It must be noted that this current register is being reviewed following the outcome of the risks identified by the Corporate Directors. It is accepted that many risks that are identified (at all levels) need a complete rethink to ensure they are of good quality and reflective of the issues facing the Council.

Following a review of the strategic risks currently facing the Council, the Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) has identified the following:

- **1** High
- **10** Medium
- **3** Low

These have been identified and updated by officers using the Council's agreed risk scoring criteria. These have also been assessed in more detail by the Corporate Risk Management Group and the following risk issues escalated up to CLT for further consideration and action:

- 1. Risk 1006 – Concern over the appropriate levels of security and safety of confidential/sensitive data/information.** The status of this risk remains high after Information Assurance completed a detailed analysis using nationally recognised standards. A report by the Head of Governance has been presented to CLT which recommends a number of priority actions to address the issues identified and reduce the probability of the risk occurring. CLT have agreed to implement all recommendations, and when these are implemented the risk will be fully addressed. This risk will continue to be monitored.
- 2. Risk 1059 – Concern over the levels of overspend and the requirement to make appropriate savings/investment.** The risk has been reduced to medium as progress is being made on actions to mitigate the risk.
- 3. Risk 1206 – Appropriate levels of Health & Safety inspection procedures at Council properties not being delivered.** The level of risk is medium; progress has been made against the action plan.

4. **Risk 1175 – Ability to adequately fulfil the requirements as a Category 1 responder in the event of an incident or training.** This risk has been reduced to a low risk because a good level of progress has been achieved. Training has taken place for strategic and tactical level staff including CLT. Level 1 training for bronze staff (LAIOs) has been rolled out and additional training has been received by silver and gold officers.
5. **Risk 1214 – Safeguarding the Primary Data Centre (PDC) in Old County Hall during refurbishment works.** This risk has fallen from high to medium as all planned actions to reduce the likelihood have been implemented. The remaining issue to bring the score down to the target is dependent on the ICT business continuity arrangements and ensuring that there is successful fail over from the PDC to the Secondary Data Centre.
6. **Risk 1027 – Ability to ensure corporate Health & Safety & Wellbeing of the Organisation.** This risk has remained the same however the progress on the actions has gone from green to amber. This has been attributed to changes in staffing in H&S.

The remaining risks have maintained their current status based on the following factors – *agreed tolerance within resources available; awaiting further measures to mitigate risk down.* These risks will continue to receive the appropriate level of oversight from the Risk & Assurance Team and CRMG. Detailed action plans are available upon request. Due to problems with SharePoint some officers have been unable to update their risks so verbal updates have been sought accordingly.

RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

A recent audit of Risk Management Arrangements was undertaken which gave two out of three stars – ‘Reasonable Assurance’. There were some very positive outcomes and work is underway on the required actions. The report has not been appended here due to size but is available upon request. The *Executive Summary* said:

“I am able to offer reasonable assurance as most of the areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled. Generally risks are well managed but some systems require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives. This opinion is based on the results of testing which reflected evidence of advances made in preparing the Council for adoption and application of the new Risk Management Strategy. There are some areas where further work is to be done but these have been acknowledged by the Head of Risk and Assurance and the evidence of recent progress indicates a positive direction of travel which we trust will see this work completed.”

A draft risk communications strategy defining how Risk Management is communicated has been drawn up and will be sought for approval.

There are on-going problems with SharePoint10 which has caused delays in the electronic update of risks. Officers are working on solutions to address the faults.

The Risk Management Strategy is to be put forward for delegated decision and the Risk Management Training Plan has been completed and will be implemented in April 2013.

Health and Safety risks that are deemed to have significant impact are now included on the Service Risk Registers which will give better overview to the Service Director.

CRMG has agreed they shall meet each quarter for CLT/Audit Committee reports and every 2 months to discuss/challenge service, operational risks. This will enable a better use of time and focus on the report and service risk registers respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the latest position regarding the Council's risks that are identified in the current Corporate Risk Register as detailed in **Appendix A** confirming the status of the high level risks being reported from service areas.
2. To note the outcome of the recent Internal Audit report on Risk Management.

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APPENDIX A – Corporate Risk Register

Ref	Risk	Current Impact	Current Likelihood	Current Risk Rating	Direction of Travel	Progress on Risk Action Plan	Target Impact	Target Likelihood	Current Target Rating
1006	Concern over the appropriate levels of security and safety of confidential/sensitive data/information	4	4	High	-	G	2	1	Low
1059	Concern over the levels of overspend and the requirement to make appropriate savings/investment.	3	3	Medium	↓	G	3	2	Low
1206	Appropriate levels of Health & Safety inspection procedures at Council properties not being delivered.	3	3	Medium	↓	A	2	1	Low
1214	Safeguarding the Primary Data Centre (PDC) in Old County Hall during refurbishment works.	3	2	Medium	↓	G	2	2	Low
1014	Ability to assess, manage / monitor fraud and corruption activity	2	3	Medium	-	A	2	2	Low
1027	Ability to ensure the Corporate Health, Safety & Wellbeing of the organisation	3	2	Medium	-	A	3	1	Low
1137	Poor quality data used by the Council and associated Partners/Contractors	3	3	Medium	-	A	2	2	Low
1173	Implementation of the Children's Safeguarding Improvement Plan	4	2	Medium	-	G	4	1	Low
1174	Maintenance of an up to date and accurate Partnerships Register	3	3	Medium	-	G	3	1	Low
1175	Ability to adequately fulfil the requirements as a Category 1 responder in the event of an incident or training	4	1	Low	↓	G	4	1	Low
1186	Violence and aggression to employees from members of the public	3	3	Medium	-	A	3	1	Low
1182	Ability of Private/Voluntary sector to deliver services effectively/ efficiently	4	2	Medium	-	G	4	1	Low
1063	Ability to corporately control the maintenance and monitoring of contracts	2	2	Low	-	G	2	2	Low
1180	Transfer of Public Health function to Wiltshire Council	2	2	Low	-	G	1	1	Low