

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING:	1ST DECEMBER 2016
SUBJECT OF REPORT:	RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE
TOWN OR PARISH:	ALL
OFFICER PRESENTING:	JEFF WRING – HEAD OF AUDIT WEST
KEY DECISION:	NO

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee notes the report and the issues raised in the two presentations.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to give an update on the key corporate risks facing the organisation and review two topic areas which the Committee will receive a presentation on at the meeting.

2. POLICY

Risk Management supports delivery of the council's Corporate Plan.

3. DETAILS

A Corporate Risk dashboard for quarter 3 has been prepared but is still in draft form and not yet reviewed by Corporate Management Team and therefore an update will be given at the meeting.

In general the council's corporate risks can be focussed around key themes:

Prioritising & Planning Resources – Corporate and Medium Term Financial Plan

Future Organisational Needs – Transformation Programme & Digital Agenda

Delivering Growth – Economic Strategy and Economic Development

Supporting the most Vulnerable – Safeguarding and working with Health

Investing in our Assets – Infrastructure Projects

The Executive and Corporate Management Team review risks in the context of delivering on the big agenda's facing the organisation. This includes active management of risks to see how they can work as opportunities as well as using traditional governance mechanisms to provide assurance over key decisions.

The Corporate Risk Register forms part of the performance management reporting system and is reviewed periodically by the Corporate Management Team.

The role of the Audit Committee is to receive assurance that the right framework and processes are in place and to provide an overview of the key issues facing the organisation. In this way they can provide support to the overall governance of the Council which also receives and reviews risks on a regular basis through its Executive and Scrutiny functions.

There have been no significant or material changes to the Council's systems for making decisions or considering risk since the last report to Committee in 2015.

The role of the Audit service both Internal and External is to shape their work and responsibilities around key risk areas to ensure their work is prioritised and they can give the Council appropriate assurance.

The Internal Audit service also oversees the Council's risk management strategy which has six main themes to support services in delivering on their objectives -

- To accept & understands key risks
- To have plans to manage these risks
- To have clear ownership of risks
- To have clear governance in place to manage risks
- To have the right skills & competencies
- To reflect best practice in our systems

To help focus the attention of the Committee two areas relevant to Corporate Risks have been selected for individual presentations to help understand our current position and the challenges we face to delivering effective services. These pick up on areas of interest that the Committee has expressed in the past as well as looking at how we need to change for the future.

Presentations will therefore be given over –

- Transformation Programme
- Procurement & Contract Management

The Committee is therefore asked to provide comment on these areas to help support our plans and take assurance of the work underway.

4. CONSULTATION

The content of the reports has been consulted with the S151 Officer and relevant other officers.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Failure to implement an effective approach to Risk Management and to identify and manage the Council's strategic risks could lead to failure to deliver the Council's priorities and long term ambitions.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

In assessing risks, Members and Officers consider compliance with legislation and achievement of the Council's priorities. In this way the Risk Management Strategy supports delivery of the Council's responsibilities under Equality Legislation.

8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Risk Management involves staff at all levels and has implications for all Officers and Members, as it forms an integral part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements.

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None, this is an update report.

AUTHOR

Jeff Wring – Head of Audit West

Jeff.wring@n-somerset.gov.uk