

SCRUTINY CONSULTATION

90/05 - **RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2005/08:** The Corporate Improvement Officer (Governance) submitted a written report introducing the revised Corporate Risk Management Strategy for 2005/08 and the Strategy Action Plan which had been circulated electronically for Members' consideration. It was noted that this document superseded that written and published in November 2003, having been fully revised and updated since then.

As part of the consideration of this item, the Corporate Improvement Officer provided Members of the Commission with a brief training session on the key features of risk management as an introduction to the Strategy including: -

- The definition of risk
- Identifying risk
- Analysing risk
- Risk perception
- Risk appetite
- Risk matrices and priorities

Following the presentation and training session, the Chair invited Members' questions in relation to the Council's approach to risk management and the Strategy document. Members queried the use of the Corporate and Strategic Risk Register and Departmental Risk Registers in relation to specific Council projects and it was acknowledged that the aim of the Strategy was to embed the philosophies of risk management in all Council projects through the business planning process. Members queried whether a risk assessment had been undertaken in relation to key workers within Harrogate Borough Council and the Corporate Improvement Officer advised that each Head of Service would have been required to draft a Business Continuity Plan which could be used together with the Council's existing HR Policies and Processes in the event of the loss of one or more key workers. It was noted that the existing Performance Management System "Covalent" would also assist Heads of Service in that process.

It was noted that references to risk assessments and risk management were now appearing in officer reports to Cabinet, Commissions and Committees, and the aim was to make this item commonplace within officer reports. The Executive Director, Corporate Policy and Improvement referred to the current customer relations management system and the process of risk assessment in relation thereto. Councillor Hawkins queried whether a reference to risk could be made in the sustainability matrix which appeared on every Council report drafted and that was noted. It was acknowledged that following the approval of the Strategy, officers would begin to develop a risk management toolkit as the next step in the risk management process.

Councillor Simms queried whether any exercise had been undertaken by Council officers to compare the perception of risk against the actual outturn, and it was noted

that whilst this process had not been undertaken as yet, it had been identified by officers as a useful exercise to be carried out at a later date.

Councillor Powell queried the risk assessment process undertaken in relation to the HIC Breakout Space Projects, and officers responded in relation thereto.

It was **agreed** that the Commission having considered the Corporate Risk Management Strategy 2005/08 and Action Plan, agree the Strategy as a starting point for improved risk management arrangements. The Commission also **agreed** to receive regular progress reports on the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan and, indeed, risk management arrangements in general.

(6.00 pm - 6.39 pm)