



Report Reference Number: A/21/4

To: Audit and Governance Committee
Date: 27 July 2021
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Lead Officer: Karen Iveson; Chief Finance Officer

Title: Risk Management Annual Report 2020/21

Summary:

The report provides a summary of risk management activity in 2020/21 and proposed actions to be taken in 2021/22.

Recommendation:

Councillors note the risk management activity undertaken in 2020/21 and the proposed actions for 2021/22.

Reasons for Recommendation

To support the Audit and Governance Committee's responsibility for considering the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of all service managers to identify and manage risks associated with the delivery of their services. Veritau provides support to this process by facilitating risk management activity and providing advice and training to officers and the committee.
- 1.2 This report summarises work undertaken by the Council in maintaining and improving its risk management framework during the year, and work done by Veritau to support this.

2. The Report

- 2.1 Over the past year, the following action has been taken to develop risk management activity and review current risks.
 - The risk management annual report 2019/20 was reported to the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2020.

- A summary of corporate risks was reported to the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2020 and January 2021.
- A review of the risk management strategy was completed and reported to the committee in January 2021.
- Officers have been reminded to update service based risk registers to ensure that they accurately reflect existing and emerging risks.
- Veritau has supported managers to review risks in their service areas, and to identify mitigating actions where necessary.

2.2 Further specific activity planned for 2021/22 includes the following:

- A health check review of the risk management framework. (This had originally been planned for 2020/21 but, in consultation with senior management, has been deferred to 2021/22 due to pressures created by the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.)
- Annual review of the risk management strategy, and accompanying risk management guidance.
- Regular reporting of the corporate risk register to Extended Leadership Team and to Audit and Governance Committee.
- Continuation of risk drop-in and training sessions for officers and members.
- Ongoing support for the review and maintenance of service based risk registers.

3. Implications

3.1 There are no legal, financial, policy & risk, corporate plan, resource or other implications from this report.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Overall, a number of actions have been taken in order to further facilitate and embed sound risk management processes within the Council. Work is planned for 2021/22 to develop this further.

5. Background Documents

Risk management strategy – revised January 2021

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