

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM
TO THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

28 September 2015

**CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD April to June
2015**

Submitted by: Simon Sowerby - Business Improvement Manager

Portfolio: Policy, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the progress made by the Council in enhancing and embedding risk management for the period April to June 2015, including progress made in managing identified corporate risks.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) Scrutinise the progress that has been made in managing the risks identified within the Strategic, Operational, Project and Partnership Risk Registers, where applicable.**
- (b) Note the point 2.1.1 showing no overdue risk reviews.**
- (c) Note the point 2.2.1 showing risk rating changes.**
- (d) Note the explanation at point 2.3 for the delay in implementing the Planning Peer Review Action Plan.**
- (d) Note the new risks that have been identified between April to June 2015.**
- (e) Identify, as appropriate, individual risk profiles to be scrutinised in more detail at the next meeting of the Committee.**

Reasons

The risk management process previously adopted by the Council has been reviewed to incorporate changes in the way the Council works and to provide continuity and streamlined reporting of risks to allow the process to become further embedded at each level of the authority. This will also aid the identification of key risks that potentially threaten the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities. The Risk Management Strategy provides a formal and proportionate framework to manage these identified risks and thus reduce the Council's exposure.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Council monitors and manages all its risks through the various risk profiles contained within GRACE (Governance Risk and Control Environment) – the Council's software used to record and manage risks.
- 1.2 The Council currently reviews its high (red 9) risks at least monthly and its medium (amber) risks at least quarterly.
- 1.3 The last review of these risks was reported to the Council's Audit & Risk Committee in July 2015.
- 1.4 Risk owners are challenged by the Council's Risk Champions in respect of the controls, further actions, ratings and emerging risks related to their risks, and are also challenged on the reasons for inclusion or non-inclusion and amendment of these.
- 1.5 Projects are managed to a high level in relation to risk and are reviewed in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy (i.e. at least monthly).

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Further to an Audit Assurance recommendation, your officer has been asked to report on overdue risk reviews that are 6 months out of date.
 - 2.1.1 At the time of the running report, there were NO overdue risks.
- 2.2 Following a previous review a report was produced to show any risks where the risk level has increased.
 - 2.2.1 Your officer can report that there has been one (1) risk level increase during the period April to June 2015 in relation to immigration.
 - 2.2.2 There were no new risks added to any profiles during April to June 2015.
 - 2.2.3 Should there be any increase during July to September 2015 these will be reported to the next Committee meeting.
- 2.3 At the July 2015 meeting, members requested a specific response in relation to the delay in implementing the Planning Peer Review Action Plan.
 - 2.3.1 Your officer has enquired with the Executive Director – Regeneration and Development as to the reasons for this and was advised that due to the number of actions and other issues (financial, resources, timings etc) actions were prioritised accordingly.
 - 2.3.2 During July 2015 a report was received by Cabinet on the progress of implementing the action plan. The report confirmed that the majority of actions had been completed and that there were clear plans in place to address outstanding actions. Further report are being submitted to Cabinet during October and November in this regard.

3. **Strategic, Operational, Project and Partnership Risk Registers (Appendices)**

3.1 The Council regularly reviews and refreshes its risk registers in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy.

3.2 These reviews are co-ordinated by the Strategic Risk Champion who works closely with Directors, Operational Risk Champions and Risk Owners.

3.3 The risk map below shows the descriptions of the ratings, for ease of use.

| | | | | |
|--|----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| L I K E L I H O O D | High 3 | 7 Amber | 8 Amber | 9 High Red |
| | Medium 2 | 4 Green | 5 Amber | 6 Amber |
| | Low 1 | 1 Green | 2 Green | 3 Amber |
| | | Low 1 | Medium 2 | High 3 |
| IMPACT | | | | |

3.4 During this quarter there has been one additional risk added of a final rating of medium amber 8 in relation to the Climate Change profile, where the risk is highlighted as a potential for mass immigration. In light of the Government's request for support to address the current Syrian Refugee Crisis, the Cabinet received a briefing report at its meeting on 16th September 2015 with a further report to follow that will clarify the proposed response by this Council and local partners. In view of the nature of the issues raised it is intended to re-designate the risk profile under the Strategic Housing lead role.

3.5 Appendix A now highlights the risks that fall into the top line of the above risk map.

4. **Issues from last meeting**

4.1 None.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Corporate and Sustainable Community Priorities**

5.1 Good risk management is a key part of the overall delivery of the Council's four corporate priorities of:

- Borough of Opportunity
- A Clean, Safe and Sustainable Borough
- A Healthy and Active Community
- Becoming a Co-operative Council, which delivers high quality, community-driven services

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, state that:

“The relevant body is responsible for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control, which facilitates the effective exercise of that body’s functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk”

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 There are no differential equality impact issues in relation to this report.

8.1 **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 None where actions are to be taken in order to mitigate the risks as these will be met from within existing budgets. Where this is not possible, further reports will be submitted to Members.

9. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Notable High and Medium risks

10. **Background Papers**

None