

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 23rd July 2020

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE

RISK MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Purpose

To report on the Risk Management process and progress to date for the current financial year.

Recommendations

That the Committee endorses the Corporate Risk Register

Executive Summary

One of the functions of the Audit & Governance Committee is to monitor the effectiveness of the Authority's Strategic risk management arrangements, including the actions taken to manage those risks and to receive regular reports on this activity. Corporate risks are identified, managed and monitored by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on a quarterly basis.

As previously reported the structure for the Strategic risks is being reviewed to reflect the current organisation structure and ensure it carries the appropriate level of focus. The review work is still continuing and will be reported to a future meeting.

The summary of the current Corporate Risk Register is attached as **Appendix 1** and the detailed information is attached as **Appendix 2**. The major items of note in the quarter period are:

- The effect of Covid-19 on the operations of the Authority
- The now proven effectiveness of the Business continuity arrangements within the Authority
- Removal of the Assurance process from the list. The annual opinion on the control environment over the last 2 years has been reasonable assurance. We have no major fraud, and we have a functioning Internal and External assurance processes.

The need to be prepared for future events both known and unknown are (where possible) accommodated in the structure of the strategic risk framework. Recent events have provided a validation of the Business Continuity planning element of these control measures. The Authority was able to successfully transfer to a significantly different organisational working structure at the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are still lessons to be learned and these will be incorporated as required.

The issues arising from the European Union (BREXIT) are still largely an unknown in regards to its effect on the economy in general and our region in particular, but this situation continues to be monitored and preparations, where possible, will be made.

Options Considered

None.

Resource Implications

None.

Legal / Risk Implications

There are no direct legal implications from this report but failure to manage strategic risks could lead to issues in delivering strategic priorities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Summary Corporate Risk Register

Appendix 2 Detailed Corporate Risk Register