

COUNCIL RISK REGISTER

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ASSURANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A request has been made that a report be brought to this Committee setting out the Council's Risk Register.

2. Strategic and Corporate Risk Profiles

- 2.1 The key risks to the Council are set out in two documents, as follows:
- Strategic Risk Profile – risks are set out against the key areas in the Council's City plan (see Appendix 1).
 - Corporate Risk Profile – risks are set out against the Council's key procedures and arrangements for managing operational day to day business (see Appendix 2).
- 2.2 The risk profiles set out the risk description, potential causes of the risk and the potential impacts should the risk materialise. These are assessed to determine a current risk score. Mitigating actions are included along with an expected target risk score once the mitigating actions are complete. The Risk Profiles are kept under review. Once the target score is reached a further assessment is made to determine if further mitigations could reduce the score anymore and if so, new actions are included and another target score will be shown.
- 2.3 In addition to the risks the profiles also show how well the risks are being managed through assurances gathered from various sources. This is based on the three lines of defence model, as follows:
- First line – assurance gathered from management regarding how well they think risks are being managed in their areas of responsibility, this is obtained through the Council's annual governance questionnaire.
 - Second line – assurance gathered from specialist functions which have a corporate role and have a view of how well risks are managed in relation to their specialist areas, such as Finance or People Management. This is obtained through the completion of assurance schedules by the specialist functions on a quarterly basis.

- Third line – assurance gathered from independent sources such as Internal Audit, the Council’s external auditors and external inspectorates such as OFSTED. This is obtained from the results of Internal Audit’s annual audit plan over a three-year period and external reports as and when they are received.

All of the assurances gathered provide an overall assurance level for the key risk areas set out in the risk profiles.

- 2.4 All the information included within the risk profiles is reported to Chief Officers and the Audit and Governance Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 2.5 On an annual basis a report is prepared for presentation to Council setting out the areas of activity that the Audit and Governance Committee have been involved in for the previous financial year. As this includes regular review of the Risk Profiles this provides assurance to Council that the Committee is fulfilling its duties.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 In conclusion, the Council has an integrated approach to assessing the strategic risks and operational risks at a corporate level, and for monitoring how well these risks are being managed. This is reviewed on a regularly basis by Chief Officers and the Audit and Governance Committee and annually by Council.