



Audit Committee

9 March 2015

Report title	Strategic Risk Register and Strategic Assurance Map	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Finance	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee(s)	Peter Farrow	Head of Audit
	Tel	01902 554460
	Email	peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
	Narinder Phagura	Strategic Risk Manager
	Tel	01902 554580
	Email	narinder.phagura@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board	17 February 2015

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The latest summary of the Council's strategic risk register.
2. The identification of two new strategic risks in respect of the 2015 elections (risk 18) and a Combined Authority (risk 19).
3. The reduction in the assessments of risks 3 and 7- Information Governance and Safeguarding respectively.
4. The reduction in the assessment of risk 5- FutureWorks and the ending of this risk which will result in it being removed from the strategic risk register.
5. The main sources of assurance available to the Council against its strategic risks.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To keep members of the Audit Committee aware of the key risks the Council faces, and how it can gain assurance that these risks are being mitigated.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council is no different to any organisation, and will always face risks in achieving its objectives. Sound risk management can be seen as the clear identification and management of such risks to an acceptable level.
- 2.2 The strategic risk register report was last presented to the Committee in December 2014. Since this time we have met with the risk owners in order to review and update the risks and risk management action plans.
- 2.3 The strategic risk register does not include all of the risks that the Council faces. It represents the most significant risks that could potentially impact on the achievement of the corporate priorities. Other risks are captured within operational, programme, project or partnership risk registers in line with the Council's corporate risk management framework and strategy.
- 2.4 A summary of the strategic risk register is included at Appendix A of this report which sets out the status of the risks as at February 2015. These risks are reviewed on an ongoing basis and can be influenced by both external and internal factors and as such, may fluctuate over time.
- 2.5 Appendix B provides a summary of the Council's strategic assurance map which follows the three lines of defence model (shown below). The assurance map details where the Committee can gain assurance against the strategic risks. This too is a live document and is updated alongside the monitoring and reviewing of the strategic risk register.

The three lines of defence model:

First line	Second line	Third line
The first level of the control environment is the business operations which perform day to day risk management activity	Oversight functions such as Finance, HR and Risk Management set directions, define policy and provide assurance	Internal and external audit are the third line of defence, offering independent challenge to the levels of assurance provided by business operations and oversight functions

3.0 Progress, options, discussion

- 3.1 The strategic risk register will be updated as required, and presented at approximately quarterly intervals to the Committee. The Committee will also be given the opportunity to 'call in' individual risks for further review.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report as Councillors are only requested to note the strategic risk register summary. Financial implications may arise from the implementation of strategies employed to mitigate individual corporate risks, but these will be evaluated and reported separately if required.
[GE/23022015/U]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Although there may be some legal implications arising from the implementation of the strategies employed to mitigate individual strategic risks, there are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
[TS/24022015/R]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 Although there may be equalities implications arising from the implementation of the strategies employed to mitigate individual strategic risks, there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 Although there may be some environmental implications arising from the implementation of the strategies employed to mitigate individual strategic risks, there are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 Although there may be some human resource implications arising from the implementation of the strategies employed to mitigate individual strategic risks, there are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None