



Scrutiny Board

27 January 2015

Report title	Corporate Risk Register	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources	
Wards affected	None	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Audit Services and Risk Management	
Accountable employee(s)	Narinder Phagura Tel Email	Strategic Risk Manager 01902 554580 narinder.phagura@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Audit Committee Strategic Executive Board	15 December 2015 20 November 2014

Recommendations:

The Scrutiny Board is requested to:

1. Consider the summary of the corporate risk register and where deemed appropriate use the corporate risk register as a potential source of reference to contribute to its work programme.
2. Note the process involved in reviewing and reporting the corporate risks and the role the Audit Committee performs in the management of risk.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To make members of the Scrutiny Board aware of the key risks the Council faces, and where deemed appropriate to use the corporate risk register as a potential source of reference to contribute to its own work programme.
- 1.2 The report also sets out some aspects of the risk management framework that is being embedded across the Council and includes a summary of where risks are recorded and how and by whom these are reviewed.

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 is an element of good corporate governance and can be seen as the clear identification and management of such risks to an acceptable level.
- 2.2 In recent times there has been a move across local authorities to strengthen the links between strategic risk management and internal audit, and this is becoming widely recognised to bring many benefits. Therefore, the Internal Audit team took on the responsibility for overseeing the embedment of a risk management framework across Wolverhampton.
- 2.3 It should be noted that management remains responsible for risk management and Internal Audit does not manage any of the risks on behalf of management.
- 2.4 As part of these changes the corporate risk register underwent a fundamental review by the Strategic Executive Board (SEB) and Corporate Delivery Board in early 2014, the outcome of which was reported to the Audit Committee in March 2014.
- 2.5 Since this time, regular reviews of the corporate risks have been undertaken by risk owners and SEB, where the risk assessments, controls and the progress against the implementation of mitigating actions have been considered.
- 2.6 Thereafter this risk information is reported to the Audit Committee at each meeting so that the Committee can monitor the effective development and operation of risk management; assure itself that risks to the delivery of the Council's priorities are being managed; call in risk owners to provide further detail of risks where it may have concerns regarding the management of risks and escalate any residual concerns to Cabinet.
- 2.7 The corporate 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 a hierarchy of risk registers in line with the Council's corporate risk management framework and strategy. These comprise directorate/operational risk registers, programme and project risk registers or partnership risk registers.

- 2.8 Risks are assessed by risk owners by considering the combination of likelihood and impact both of which are judged on a scale of one to five and then categorised as red, amber or green based on the overall score and the Council's risk appetite.
- 2.9 A summary of the corporate risk register is included at appendix A of this report which sets out the status of the corporate risks as at November 2014. 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. A further review of the risks is currently underway.
- 2.10 The corporate risk register is updated on an ongoing basis, and presented at approximately quarterly intervals to the Strategic Executive Board and to each Audit Committee meeting where the risks are reviewed further and assurances on the management of risk.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. 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/12012015/A]

4.0 Legal implications

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

[TS/13012015/U]

5.0 Equalities implications

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

6.0 Environmental implications

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

7.0 Human resources implications

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

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

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

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 None