

Audit and Procurement Committee

21 March 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)

Ward(s) affected:

City Wide

Title:

Corporate Risk

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit and Procurement Committee with the outcome of the review of the Risk Management Policy in Appendix 1, Corporate Risk Register 2022-23 in Appendix 2 and the COVID-19 Risk Register in Appendix 3. This provides the Audit and Procurement Committee with an overview of the Council's corporate and COVID-19 risk management arrangements, the main risks identified and the mitigations in place.

Recommendations:

The Audit and Procurement Committee are requested to:

1. Note the outcome of the review of the Risk Management Policy, indicating that they are satisfied with the risk management process.
2. Note the current Corporate Risk Register, indicating that they have satisfied themselves that corporate risks are being identified and managed.
3. Note the COVID-19 Risk Register, indicating that they have satisfied themselves that COVID-19 risks are being identified and managed.
4. Identify any areas where they require additional information (if any).

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Risk Management Policy

Appendix 2 – Corporate Risk Register

Appendix 3 – COVID-19 Risk Register

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:
Corporate Risk

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Council's Risk Management Policy has been reviewed and updated. It provides a process of risk identification, assessment, management, mitigation, recording and review. It facilitates the process of escalation of risk in order that it is managed at the correct level of the Council.
- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Risk Register and COVID-19 Risk Register are set out in this report within the context of three important factors. Firstly, the ongoing challenge of the resources that are available, secondly the demographic challenges leading to increased demand for services whilst quality must be maintained and thirdly the COVID-19 pandemic which has had a dramatic impact on citizens and local government.
- 1.3 The Audit and Procurement Committee's Terms of Reference requires the Committee to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management within the Council. The Council's Risk Management Policy identifies that the Committee will receive an annual risk management report.
- 1.3 This report provides the Audit and Procurement Committee with the outcome of the review of the Corporate Risk Register 2022-23 and provides an opportunity for a review of the latest version of the COVID-19 Risk Register.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Following consultation with services, the Risk Management Policy has been reviewed with Strategic Leadership Team and it is proposed that it is adopted from 1 April 2022.
- 2.2 The Corporate Risk Register at Appendix 2 has been reviewed in consultation with Strategic Leadership Team and the allocated Risk Owner. It identifies the main risks facing the Council, the impact of the risk, the inherent risk score before risk mitigation, the risk mitigations, the risk score after the mitigations are applied and where responsibility lies for the Council's response.
- 2.3 It should be noted that the Corporate Risk Register covers only those risks that are viewed as the most critical for the Council and which are considered at a corporate level. Risk management activity continues throughout the Council dealing with those of a lower level.
- 2.3 The Corporate Risks and the control measures in place to address them are more fully described in Appendix 2. Audit and Procurement Committee are asked to review the content of the register and satisfy themselves that the process is operating effectively within the Council as required under the Risk Management Policy.
- 2.4 There are some changes to the Corporate Risk Register from the previous report to Members.

Risks added:

Risk 24 - Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change and promoting sustainability

Risk 25 - Education and the link to inequalities

Risk 26 - Increases in demand for specialist school placements for children with an EHC plan
Risk 27 - Reducing health inequalities
Risk 28 - A deterioration in industrial/employee relations affects the Council's ability to deliver vital services

Risks removed from the previous Corporate Risk Register:

Risk 2 – Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Ltd and Ors and Coventry City Council and Ors
Risk 14 – Information Governance (There is a link to Risk 3, ICT and Digital Services)
Risk 16 – Failure to comply with health and safety legislation (there is a link to Risk 5, A workforce that delivers the Council's priorities.)
Risk 23 – Elections

2.6 This is the second time that the COVID-19 Risk Register has been considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee. This version is the 6th. The risks are grouped under different service areas. They are:

Service area 1 – Children's Services
Service area 2 – Education & Skills
Service area 3 – Adult Services
Service area 4 – Finance
Service area 5 – Human Resources
Service area 6 – Housing and Homelessness
Service area 7 – Public Health
Service area 8 – Business, Investment and Culture

3. Results of consultation undertaken

None

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

There is no implementation timetable as this is a monitoring report.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications directly associated with the Risk Management Policy or the risk registers although the management of the risks is essential to the operation of the Council, the pursuit of its priorities and its financial integrity.

5.2 Legal implications

The maintenance and review of the Corporate Risk Register ensures that the Council meets its statutory obligation under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to have appropriate measures in place to ensure that risk is appropriately managed.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council’s plan?

Effective risk management arrangements are an integral component of strategic decision making, service planning and delivery and increasing the likelihood of achieving corporate priorities.

The measures outlined in the COVID-19 Risk Register assist the Council to deliver statutory and other services safely.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

The Council has a policy to support risk management arrangements across the organisation as part of its overarching governance processes. This report forms part of that practice.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Effective risk management arrangements are part of the good governance arrangements which lead to improved decision making and operational practices across the organisation especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

The Corporate Risk Register outlines the risk as the Council tackles the causes and consequences of climate change and promotes sustainability.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Susanna Newing	Director of Human Resources	-	02/03/22	03/03/22
Peter Fahy	Director of Adult Services and Housing	-	01/02/22	09/02/22
John Gregg	Director of Children's Services	-	31/01/22	17/02/22
Paul Ward	Head of ICT and Digital	ICT and Digital	02/03/22	02/03/22
Andy Williams	Director of Business, Investment and Culture	-	31/01/22	14/02/22
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Paul Jennings	Finance Manager	Finance	01/03/22	07/03/22
Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	-	01/03/22	07/03/22
Barry Hastie	Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer)	-	01/03/22	07/03/22
Councillor G Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	08/03/22	

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