

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Audit Committee	
MEETING DATE:	7 th December 2010	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Risk Management Annual Update Report	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 - Risk Management Strategy Components Appendix 2 - Progress Report		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide an annual update to the Corporate Audit Committee on the current status of Risk Management arrangements within the Authority.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the report and comment on current arrangements.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications relevant to this report.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 Background & Existing Framework

- 4.2 The Committee received the last annual report on risk management in September 2009 when details were provided of a proposal to combine the risk management strategy for the Council with that of the PCT for Bath & North East Somerset.

- 4.3 Significant investment was made in attempting to agree a joint strategy but following the major changes announced by the new coalition government regarding the future of Health, it was decided that it would not be appropriate to finalise this approach and instead look to align strategies rather than combine.
- 4.4 One of the key outcomes of this joint work was that the PCT has decided to adopt the core Council processes and whilst elements of governance and reporting are slightly different in each organisation the two strategies and processes are now closely aligned. The results of this work will now mean the planned new social enterprise for the provider functions of the PCT and Adult Social Care from the Council will be working from the same principles and processes.
- 4.5 The Councils strategy has therefore needed to be rewritten again to reflect this and will shortly be submitted for single member decision to the Cabinet Member for Resources.
- 4.6 The Committee previously reviewed this strategy in depth last year and as there have been no material changes it was decided not to submit it again to the Committee. The Chair of the Committee and Independent Member have however been very recently issued with the final draft for comment.
- 4.7 At the September 2009 meeting of the Corporate Audit Committee a Risk Management briefing explained the Risk & Opportunity Management Framework, outlining how the different parts of the process interact into helping the Council manage its business and achieve its priorities.
- 4.8 There have been no material changes to these components which are highlighted at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 expands on this by recording work carried out and planned since September 2009.
- 4.9 The 'Progress Report – Risk Management' (Appendix 3) refers to the maintenance of the Council's Corporate Risk Register. A copy of the latest version (Quarter 2 - 2010/11) will be made available to Committee Members at the meeting and there will be a short briefing of key risks.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 5.2 This report has been prepared to 'inform' the Committee in line with the Committee's adopted 'Terms of Reference'. Failure to report progress in relation to promoting the effective understanding and management of risk would mean that the Committee is failing in its prescribed responsibility. This would also be identified through the Councils own governance review and the Audit Commissions Use of Resources assessment.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out and there are no significant issues to report.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 A copy of this report was presented to the S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Resources for comment.

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Background papers	Corporate Audit Committee Report, 28 th September 2009
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	