

Meeting of: AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 19 OCTOBER 2005

Report of: HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Reference: LA

Title: RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS AND PROPOSED WORK PLAN

PUBLIC/EXEMPT ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform Audit Committee of the progress made to date with the risk management programme and to seek Members' endorsement of the amended work plan for the remainder of the current year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the progress made to date with the risk management programme be noted.**
- 2 That the amended work plan be approved.**

REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Through the adoption of a Code of Corporate Governance, the Council has committed to ensuring that risk management plays an integral part in the sound governance of the Council.
- 1.2 The intention of a risk management policy is to promote the achievement of the Council's aims through the implementation of its risk management strategy. Audit Committee approved a revised risk management policy and strategy on 27 July 2005. This report informs the Committee of the progress made since the last meeting with implementation of the strategy.
- 1.3 Good progress has been made with the work plan that was also approved by Audit Committee on 27 July 2005. This work plan was devised having taken account of the progress made to date with the risk management programme, and having considered emerging "Key Lines of Enquiry" (KLOEs) set out by the Audit Commission in respect of Councils' Use of Resources.

- 1.4 Delivery of this work plan will enable the Council to make significant headway with its risk management arrangements and improvements in terms of its internal control environment. This should help demonstrate their effectiveness in future years' Statements on Internal Control. The Plan sets out a challenging programme for the next six months which, when completed, should position the Council at, or within reach of, the highest level in the Use of Resources assessments.

TASK	TARGET DATE
Produce quarterly reports to Audit Committee.	From 27 July 05
Review and update risk management policy and strategy.	27 July 05
Produce strategic risk register linked to 2005/2006 Corporate Plan (to feed into 2006/07 budget & planning).	1 November 05
Improve risk considerations on Committee reports. (In conjunction with Administration Service's report writing training)	1 November 05
Ensure that project initiation documents include an adequate risk assessment.	1 November 05
Ensure that partnership risks are specifically identified and that assurances are obtained regarding the management of those risks.	1 November 05
Develop a robust assessment of the Council's risk management processes in support of the annual Statement of Internal Control and Corporate Governance as required by the Account and Audit Regulations 2003	31 March 06
Complete operational risk registers for each service.	31 March 06
Risk awareness training for all Service Heads and managers.	31 March 06
Further risk awareness training for Members (to be undertaken as part of the 2006/07 budget & planning process.)	31 March 06

- 1.5 Completion of the Strategic Risk Register has been the priority task since the last meeting of the Committee and this is now largely complete. The Risk & Insurance Manager and the Internal Audit Manager are preparing a presentation to the meeting to explain the approach in more detail.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add

DEPUTY SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Risk Management Policy and Strategy

Audit Committee Terms of Reference (The Constitution)