

Item: 6

Policy and Resources Committee: 19 June 2018.

Corporate Risk Register.

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the updated Corporate Risk Register as at May 2018.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended:

2.1.

That the updated Corporate Risk Register as at May 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.

3. Risk Management

3.1.

The Council understands that it is important to recognise and manage the many risks which are inherent in its activities, and in the services which it provides for the benefit of the community. The Council therefore adopted a policy on Risk Management, has established a Risk Management Strategy, and has implemented procedures in support of the policy and strategy, which include the production and regular review of risk registers. This activity is recognised as a key component of sound corporate governance.

3.2.

The Council promotes its risk management policy objectives by systematically identifying, evaluating and thereafter seeking to control and monitor risks which would potentially endanger, or which could have a detrimental effect on the services provided by the Council, or to residents of Orkney.

3.3.

The Council acknowledges that risk can never be eliminated in its entirety. The Council also recognises that managing risk can identify positive opportunities which, with the appropriate level of control, may lead to service improvements. Therefore, the measures which the Council adopts are the principles of good management practice which seek to control and balance risk and opportunity. Specifically, in the area of risk management, the Council seeks to:

- Meet at all times its statutory obligations and to act within the law.

- Safeguard the public at large, the Council's members, employees, pupils, tenants and all persons to whom the Council has a duty of care.
- Protect its property, including buildings, equipment, vehicles and other assets and resources.
- Preserve and enhance service delivery.
- Maintain effective control of public funds.
- Maintain and enhance the Council's reputation.
- Safeguard and enhance the quality of Orkney's environment.

3.4.

Appropriate risk management arrangements include the following documents, which must be maintained and updated on an ongoing / continuous basis and reviewed formally every 6 months:

- A risk register.
- As appropriate, an action plan to address the issues raised in the risk register. Action plans are optional for amber risks and compulsory for red risks.

3.5.

The risks on each register are categorised into strategic or operational risks and then sub-divided into appropriate risk cluster headings, for example financial, staffing, economic, political, partnerships, governance and communication.

3.6.

Any new risks which arise throughout the year are added to the relevant risk register when required.

4. Updated Corporate Risk Register

4.1.

The Corporate Risk Register, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, was last reviewed by the Senior Management Team on 15 May 2018 at which it was decided there were no changes required regarding the risks and the scoring / wording. The register is due for full review again in October 2018.

4.2.

There are 13 risks recorded on the register, one more than for the previous period. The new risk that has been added relates to risk around Health and Safety non-conformance.

4.3.

A "mitigating actions" column has been added to the register. This is essentially the action plan for respective risks and enables the register and action plans to be displayed in a single document.

5. Equalities Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

6. Corporate Governance

This report relates to governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

7. Financial Implications

7.1.

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7.2.

Effective risk management helps the Council to reduce the incidence of events that might otherwise result in the interruption of service delivery and claims for compensation.

7.3.

Any actions arising from risk management activity that are likely to incur additional revenue or capital expenditure will be considered through the Council's normal budget approval processes.

8. Legal Aspects

Effective risk management helps the Council to meet its statutory obligations and discharge its legal duties of care.

9. Contact Officers

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10. Appendices

Appendix 1: Corporate Risk Register – May 2018.

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment.