

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Chief Executive and Town Clerk
To

Audit Committee

On

8 January 2014

Agenda
Item No.

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2013-14 Corporate Risk Register

Executive Councillor – Councillor Moring

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide an update of the Corporate Risk Register for 2013/14.

2 Recommendation

2.1 **That the updated Corporate Risk Register for 2013/14 is noted.**

3 Background

3.1 Corporate Risk Register 2013/14

3.1.1 The Council's Corporate Risk Register sets out the key risks to the successful delivery of the Council's corporate aims and priorities and outlines the key controls and actions to mitigate and reduce risks, or maximise opportunities. The register is a key element of the Council's risk management strategy.

3.1.2 The register was refreshed in April 2013 and was presented to Audit Committee on 29th June. Updates to the Corporate Risk Register are reported to Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) quarterly and to Audit Committee every 6 months, with the last update to CMT being on 18th December.

3.1.3 The Corporate Risk Register follows a 3 stage process:

1st stage: An 'inherent score' with the risk assessed with no controls, assurance or actions in place.

2nd stage: The 'current score' where the risk is assessed with controls, assurances and progress against identified actions. The current score is adjusted in light of progress against actions.

3rd stage: The target score which is the risk with the controls, assurances and actions, as if they have been completed

The current score is then adjusted in light of progress against actions. It should be noted that the scoring of a risk is a subjective process following discussion with those closely involved in the issue and assessment by Corporate Management Team.

- 3.1.4 The Corporate Risk Register is attached at Appendix 1, and has been updated following consideration by Corporate Management Team on 18th December. An indication of the 'direction of travel' of the current level of risk for each risk is shown in this report, highlighting the difference in scores from June (when last presented to Audit Committee) to December.
- 3.1.5 Corporate Directors ensure service specific risks are managed within their directorates, within service plans and in accordance with the risk management strategy and processes. 'Red' rated risks with corporate implications can be escalated to CMT via Corporate Directors. Actions for all these risks are updated and managed by the Directorate risk leads and reviewed at departmental management team meetings.
- 3.1.6 Operational risks, managed within Directorates, are also assessed as part of reviews undertaken by Internal Audit and Project risks are monitored by the Corporate Delivery Board where applicable.

4 Corporate Implications

- 4.1 **Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities**
The Corporate Risk Framework underpins the operational effectiveness of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements and specifically monitors progress of managing key risks associated with the successful delivery of Corporate Aims and Priorities.
- 4.2 **Financial Implications**
Any financial implications arising from identifying and managing risk will be considered through the normal financial management processes. Proactively managing risk can result in reduced costs to the Council by reducing exposure to potential loss.
- 4.3 **Legal Implications**
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require that:

The relevant body shall be responsible for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's function and which includes the arrangements for the management of risk.
- 4.4 **People Implications**
Any people and property implications arising from identifying and managing risk will be considered through the Council's normal business management processes.
- 4.5 **Property Implications**
None specific

- 4.6 Consultation
Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders.
- 4.7 Equalities Implications
Corporate Equalities considerations have been considered in the drafting of the Register and any specific equality related risks have been identified for the Council.
- 4.8 Risk Assessment
Failure to implement a robust assurance framework which includes fit for purpose risk management arrangements increases the risk that Council objectives will not be delivered.
- 4.9 Value for Money
Effective forecasting and timely management of risk is a key factor in preventing waste, inefficiency and unnecessary or unplanned use of resource.
- 4.10 Community Safety Implications
None specific
- 4.11 Environmental Impact
None specific.

5 Appendices

Appendix 1 –Corporate Assurance Risk Register 2013/14