

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 February 2014

Report by Director of Finance

RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report provides the Audit and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress taken with risk management since September 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress of risk management within the Council.

OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTERS

3. The Corporate Risk Management Group met on 5 December 2013. Carol Peters Information Security Officer provided an overview of the Public Services Network requirements including further detail on the information handling classification index. Other presentations included an update on civil contingencies from the Council's new liaison officer Jason Hemmings. The next meeting is planned for 18 March 2014 and will include an update on social media guidelines.

4. Internal Audit recently carried out a follow up audit of operational risk registers and noted that most recommendations had been carried out. However the risk descriptions on some of the registers could be improved and a timescale for the implementation of proposed control measures should be defined more clearly. A guidance note was sent to the Corporate Management Departmental representatives instructing that these points be implemented by the end of February 2014.

5. A review of operational risk registers was carried out in February 2014 to ensure that all supervisors had recorded current risks affecting their service. The majority of services had updated their risk registers within the past 6 months. However, all service areas have been reminded of the importance of regularly reviewing their risk registers and ensuring the correct template is used.

6. A seminar on risk management was held for senior CHCP staff on 10 December 2013. A move away from generic risk registers and a move towards registers for teams has been agreed as the way forward.

7. Departments are currently finalising targets for the next outcome delivery plan and staff have been asked to ensure that any new risks are recorded on registers.

8. The importance of recording risks associated with partnerships and projects has also been emphasised amongst departments. A risk register for the Electric Glen event was developed in the last quarter.

NEW CONTROL MEASURES

9. There is evidence of new or proposed additional control measures which may either reduce the likelihood and/or impact of risks. Some examples include:

- Public Services Network accreditation and continuing action plan
- Selection of new council motto which will form part of new corporate statement
- Promotion of car sharing scheme
- Promotion of anti-fraud and bribery strategy including the reporting line and the probity register
- Roll out of agile working in CHCP
- Mixed tenure environmental improvement project
- Joint working with East Renfrewshire Credit Union

HIGH OPERATIONAL RISKS

10. The reduction in capital income continues to affect both the current and future delivery of council services. The Council is addressing this through prudent management of its overall finances.

11. Risks continue to be managed across departments. A variety of improved control measures have reduced either the likelihood or the impact of risks.

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

12. The strategic risk register which sets out the key council strategic risks was considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2013. There are 31 risks on the strategic risk register, of which 8 are evaluated as high, 20 medium and 3 low risk. The next update of the strategic risk register will be considered by the Cabinet on 27 March 2014 and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 10 April 2014.

13. The strategic risk register continues to align with the council's key outcomes and the current internal and external business environment. The risk register reflects the corporate risks associated with the current strategic change and reform agenda of the council as well as those that are inherent in the day to day business of council.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RISK

14. It is essential that customers have the opportunity to highlight key areas of risk. To ensure that the main risks are covered in the operational and strategic risk register/s, an analysis of all council complaints since September 2013 will be undertaken. The implementation of control measures within the relevant operational risk registers will help to address concerns raised by customers relating to the themes above.

15. The Corporate Risk Management Group monitors press coverage to ensure that any relevant potential risks/ opportunities or control measures are adequately reflected in risk registers.

TRAINING ON RISK MANAGEMENT

16. New training courses have been agreed with our new insurance provider, Zurich International. The new courses will be held on:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 20 February 2014 | Risks and contracts |
| 25 February 2014 | Risks and partnerships |

There has been a high level of interest in these new courses which will explore how we can ensure risk management is carried out before, during and after contract award.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE AWARDS

17. The risk management team has made the finals of the prestigious Local Government Chronicle awards 2014. A record-breaking 650 entries were submitted for this year's awards, with around 80 making it to the final (19 categories). The work of the risk management group together with the support from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee was submitted under the Corporate Governance category in an application entitled "Keeping risk on the agenda". There are 6 finalists in the Corporate Governance category and East Renfrewshire is the only Scottish council to reach the final. A presentation on the application was delivered to a panel of 9 judges on 23 January 2014. The winner will be announced on 12 March 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress of risk management within the Council.

Norie Williamson, Director of Finance 12 February 2014

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Strategic Risk Register 26 September 2013

KEY WORDS

This report provides the Audit and Scrutiny Committee with the latest progress on risk management within East Renfrewshire council.