

Joint Audit and Governance Committee



Report of the Interim Head of Corporate Services

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To: Joint Audit and Governance Committee

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Risk management framework

Recommendation

That members review and comment on the progress with implementation of the risk management framework

Purpose

1. The joint audit and governance committee approved the council's risk management strategy and framework on 25 September 2017. This report outlines the risk management activity in the last three months and members are asked to review and comment on progress to date.
2. The contact officer is Yvonne Cutler Greaves, Risk and Insurance Officer for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWDC), telephone 01235 422493.

Strategic Objectives

3. Managing the business effectively.

Current progress

4. Eight risk champions across the councils have been identified and briefed on their role. They are now actively working with their appropriate heads of service to manage risks within their service areas through the service area risk registers.
5. Two risk forums have been held and at the first forum an external speaker from Zurich Municipal presented emerging national risks and their relevance to the councils. At the second forum risk champions reviewed their service area risk registers and links to the corporate risk registers.
6. The corporate risk registers are being drafted and the senior management team have reviewed and evaluated the gross risk score and have identified the risk owners supported by the risk and insurance officer and following the risk management policy and guidance. The registers reflect that due to management restructure changes, risk owners are given as a head of a particular service area and are not currently named.
7. The risk and insurance officer is actively involved in supporting key programmes of work; i.e.: GDPR; Wessex leisure centre; Berinsfield project.

Next steps

8. To complete the corporate risk registers by reviewing the existing mitigation actions with each risk owner, identifying the 'net' risk score to take these actions into account and identify further actions required.
9. Agree a risk appetite with the senior management team which clearly illustrates the amount of acceptable risk within which the council and its programmes can operate, to enable informed decision making across all the councils providing integrated assurance supported by the risk framework.
10. To undertake a quarterly review at senior management team and six-monthly report to joint audit and governance committee to review and comment on the corporate risks registers and risk appetite adopted by the senior management team.
11. To develop a training programme to support and raise awareness of the risk management framework across the councils with officers, councillors and partners to support an integrated assurance approach.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications attached to the corporate risk registers at present. The effective management of risks can contribute to minimising the financial implications of risks materialising.

Legal Implications

13. The effective management of risks can contribute to minimising the legal implications of risks materialising.

Risks

14. The effective management of risks supports the decision-making process resulting in prioritised actions and directing resources to achieve maximum benefits and value for money for the councils and ensures compliance with the corporate governance reporting framework.

Other Implications

15. None

Background Papers

- South Oxfordshire District Council corporate risk register (draft)
- Vale of White Horse District Council corporate risk register (draft)

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