

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 20 NOVEMBER 2017

Title:

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

[Portfolio Holder for Finance: Cllr Ged Hall]

[Wards Affected: N/A]

Note Pursuant to Section 100B(5) of the Local Government Act 1972

Annexes to this report contain exempt information by virtue of which the public is likely to be excluded during the item to which the report relates, as specified in paragraph 3 of the revised part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, namely:-

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Summary and purpose:

This report presents the latest corporate risk register as refreshed by Heads of Service.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities

Good management of risk helps to ensure that Waverley achieves its objectives and minimises loss and damage which has a positive impact on the Borough's environment. The community benefits from Waverley's services being provided in an effective, safe manner.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no implications arising from this report. The Strategic Risk Register can be provided in larger print if required.

Resource and legal implications:

There are no direct resource implications resulting from the Strategic Risk Register.

Introduction and Background

1. The Risk Management Policy and Risk Register was reviewed by the Audit Committee at the meeting in November 2016 and reviewed again at the March 2017 meeting following an informal risk workshop with Zurich Municipal in January 2017 to understand the methodology for producing the corporate risk register. The Audit Committee also heard from the Strategic Director of Finance & Resources and the Risk & Insurance Officer about how the register was updated.
2. At the March 2017 meeting, the Committee discussed the specific role of the Audit Committee in reviewing the risk register, and agreed that their purpose was to seek assurance that there were arrangements in place to identify and

assess risks, and that these were working effectively. It was not the Audit Committee's role to make a quantitative or qualitative assessment of risks or to question the quality of decision-making; the Overview and Scrutiny Committees had the remit to do this.

3. The risk register shows the high-level risks that could prevent the Council from achieving its corporate aims and objectives and has been reviewed to ensure that it aligns to the current key risks facing the Council. The risk register is included as (Exempt) Annexe 1. Members are asked to consider the risks and pass any comments to officers as appropriate.

The Key Risks

4. Sixteen risks have been identified and analysed for likelihood of risk scenario materialising and impact on ability to deliver corporate objectives. The register shows the current mitigations that have been put in place with further actions identified. Changes in risks resulting from the latest review are summarised on the Change Log (Exempt) Annexe 2.

Emerging Risks

5. The Grenfell Tower disaster highlighted a number of housing related risks that the Council immediately reviewed. Waverley manages 5,000 Council homes, none of these fall within the category of high rise and has three 4 story flatted developments. None of Waverley's Council homes have the type of cladding that was used on Grenfell Tower – i.e. Aluminium Composite Material (ACM). The Council also has very robust arrangements for managing gas safety in all of its housing properties, with all gas appliances subject to an annual safety check by the Council's specialist gas contractor and legal action taken against any tenant that refuses access. Waverley continues to be fully up to date with all of its Fire Risk Assessments. The Council continues to closely monitor the progress of investigations into the Grenfell Tower tragedy and remains poised to respond to any findings, professional guidance, or changes in regulations that may help further strengthen fire safety for Waverley tenants and residents.
6. Information Governance, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) statute comes into effect on 25th May 2018. This concerns a significantly enhanced and expanded data protection rights statute that the Council must comply with or risk significant fines. To address the whole scope of the legislation and prepare the Council in readiness, a governance board has been convened and an action group set up including representatives from each service. An overarching governance framework has been agreed and an action plan is being developed to achieve compliance.
7. Head of Paid Service is a statutory position responsible for managing the officers to give advice, implement Council decisions and manage day to day service delivery. The position is currently held by an interim Director. This creates risks around delivery of long term Council strategy and workforce stability. These risks and mitigations are currently being worked through.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Audit Committee considers the revised corporate risks register at (Exempt) Annexe 1 and passes comments and observations to officers.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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