

Report of: Heads of Finance

To: Audit & Governance Committee

Date: 25th June 2008

Item No:

Title of Report : Corporate Risk Register – Outturn Report for 2007-08

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To report to Members the outturn of the 2007-08 Corporate Risk Register and details of how the register will be updated and monitored in 2008-09.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Bob Price (Governance)

Scrutiny Responsibility: Finance

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by:
Lindsay Cane, Legal & Democratic Services

Policy Framework: None

Recommendation(s): That Members note the outturn for 2007-08 and endorse the plans for updating and reporting in 2008-09.

Background

1. The Corporate Risk Register was updated to reflect the risks to the Council and to Oxford considered to be the most significant for 2007-08. This was achieved through a high level review at the September 2007 Audit & Governance Committee, and developed through the Corporate Strategy and Performance Board, in consultation with internal audit. This register was further considered at the November and December meetings of Audit and Governance Committee.

Outturn Report

2. The lead officers for each risk have been asked to provide outturn information so that the effectiveness of the mitigating controls and actions to manage each risk can be assessed.
3. The Specific Actions section has been updated to show the outcome at year (using the Management Response column). The Source of Assurance section has been updated to indicate year end results. Further information has been added to the sections on specific actions and sources of assurance where appropriate. Mitigating controls introduced during the year are also shown.
4. Taking the updates into account, lead officers have then reassessed the effectiveness of each mitigating control. Highly effective controls are shown in green.
5. The overall probability and impact scores for the risk was then reconsidered to see if the effect of risk management actions during the year have reduced the likelihood of the risks occurring, and the likely impact.
6. The front page of the register shows both the original and year end assessments to give a "Direction of Travel" picture of the Council's corporate risk management in 2007-08. The main progress has been in the first four corporate risks where the impact has reduced from high to medium and the likelihood of all four risks is now considered low.

Updating the register for 2008-09

7. The next step is to generate an updated register for 2008-09, identifying new risks and considering if those currently on the register should remain. It is planned to do this through a workshop with Heads of Service, facilitated by KPMG, at the next Wider Leadership Team Meeting on 24 June. The updated register will be reviewed by the Corporate Performance Board before it is presented to the next Audit and Governance Committee on 23rd July.
8. We will adopt a more sophisticated scoring system assigning numerical scores to likelihood and impact, which will make it easier to reflect changes in assessment through the year. The format of the document will be reviewed to facilitate quarterly reporting.

Regular reporting to Audit and Governance Committee

9. The Risk Management Strategy requires that undertakes regular reviews of the risk register and reviews assurances that risks are being managed on behalf of City Executive Board. We acknowledge that

although the Committee received reports on the register on 4 occasions in 2007-08, updates on the effectiveness of actions were not routinely included.

10. It is proposed that a quarterly report is brought to Audit and Governance Committee, following updates through the Wider Leadership Team and Corporate Performance Board as described above.

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to note the outturn report for the Corporate Risk Register for 2007-08, and to endorse the plans for updating and reporting in 2008-09.

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Background papers:

