

Divisions Affected - All

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

18 January 2023

Risk Management Overview

Report by Claire Taylor, Corporate Director CODR

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to
 - Note the Risk Management Overview

Executive Summary

1. This report sets out updates to the Strategic Risk Register 2022/23. The strategic risk register contains the Council's most significant risks, which are closely managed and reported into the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as part of the Council's Business Management and Monitoring Reports. These combined reports contain performance, risk and finance progress updates against the delivery of the current strategic plan priorities.

Introduction

2. The Oxfordshire County Council Risk Management and Opportunities strategy is the overarching framework the process strategic and operational risk is managed across the council. The strategy is reviewed and updated on an annual basis at the end of Quarter four of the financial year. This annual review ensures the strategy is linked to the budget and business planning process, the strategic plan and captures any external influence that may impact on the risk management process.
3. The current 2022 – 2025 Strategic Plan is a set of nine priorities, leading positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county.
4. The council has an action plan linking to the recent audit, whereby the Performance and Insight team are working with services to assess training needs and embed the risk management process across the organisation.

Key updates

5. The action plan has been linked to the Audit actions, and also reflected learning from recent training completed.
6. Councillor training was held earlier in the year (March 2022) as part of the Audit and Governance Committee. This was well attended covering the key role aspects supporting the overarching strategy and linking to the council's strategic priorities.
7. The Extended Leadership Team have also had risk management training (April 2022) and continue to review the strategic risk register on a monthly basis as part of the Business Management and Monitoring Report updates. This training focussed on the importance of linking finance, performance updates to the impact this may have on any strategic risks.
8. The Senior Leadership Team have received the annual risk workshop during July 2022, this includes a thorough review of all strategic risks. The next workshop is due to take place in the final quarter of this financial year.
9. A number of training sessions have also happened at services DLT sessions to review and discuss operational risk, awareness of the escalation process and strategic risks for their service area.
10. The consistent approach of using the operational and strategic risk templates has been embedded and updated on the intranet. These simple templates reflect the new Strategic plan nine priorities to ensure all risks align appropriately to the relevant priority/outcomes.
11. The Assistant Director of Finance and Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes have completed risk practitioner training and as a result are reviewing and working towards completing a risk health check. This is scheduled to be completed by end of Quarter four.
12. The Performance & Insight team are responsible for collating and reporting the Business Management and Monitoring report, once this team is fully resourced, further training will be taking place within this team and regular sessions available for services to attend.
13. One of the outputs of the Senior Leadership Team workshop is to implement a risk working group. This working group will be chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and consist of representatives from directorates. The risk working group will concentrate on the strategic risks across the council and any risks that are being escalated for review. This group will look at all risks, ensuring a consistent approach of risk identification, escalation and management is in place. Linking all risks to the strategic priorities of the council and any financial implications.

Strategic Risk Register

14. The term "Strategic risk" refers to both strategic risks (risks to the Council's strategic objectives) and operational or programme/project risks which have been escalated

due to the severity of their likelihood and/or impact. It does not necessarily include risks to the community, which are managed through the Community Risk Register, overseen by the Local Resilience Forum, (of which the Council is a member).

15. The Strategic Risk Register records the risks identified as requiring the most senior management attention. The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed monthly by Extended Leadership Team, and bi-monthly by Senior Leadership Team, Informal Cabinet, Cabinet and is also an agenda item for the performance and corporate services overview and scrutiny as part of the Business Management and Monitoring report.
16. The high level overview of the Strategic Risks will be reported publicly as part of the Business Management and Monitoring Report pack which goes to the chairs of overview and scrutiny committees and Cabinet.
17. The annual review of the strategic risks will occur during quarter four of this financial year linking across to the refreshed strategic plan priorities for 2023/24.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

18. The risk management process links to all nine of the strategic priorities. All templates include the link to the strategic priorities to ensure risks are identified with any effect to priorities possibly not being delivered.

Financial Implications

19. There are no significant financial implications from this paper

Comments checked by:

Ian Dyson, Assistant Director finance, ian.dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

[Legal Implications]

20. There are no significant legal implications from this paper

Comments checked by:

Kate Charlton

Risk Management

21. There are no significant risk implications from this paper.

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