

A6. Corporate Risk Management Update

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on corporate risks and assurance arrangements.

The report provided updates, as appendices, in regard to:-

- Corporate Risk Dashboards
- Corporate Risk Register (including all Covid-19 risks)
- Risk Improvement Plan and Performance indicators.

The Committee was asked to consider the report and to refer it to the Executive for review and approval.

Following a question on the risks around the Council's recent decision to bring Falkirk Community Trust in-house Mr Smail confirmed that the register would be revised to include these risks under a discrete heading.

The committee then asked if the risks around staff working from home had been captured within a risk category. The Director of Corporate and Housing Services confirmed that these fell within the 'HR Management and Workforce planning' risk category. Mr Ritchie added that regular staff surveys had been undertaken throughout the pandemic on issues such as mental wellbeing and practical issues such as use of IT equipment when working from home. Additionally a number of listening events had been held and an action plan had been developed.

The committee noted that Audit Scotland had highlighted cybersecurity as a risk area when employees worked from home and sought assurance that adequate measures were in place to protect the Council from attacks.

The committee noted that while the Equalities risk category was an area of high risk corporately an Internal Audit review had provided limited assurance. The Chief Executive confirmed that an action plan had been developed by Internal Audit and the Services and this was due to be considered by the Corporate Management Team later in the day.

The committee also commented on the large number of governance groups (20) detailed in appendix 1 to the report and questioned whether they were necessary or effective. The Chief Executive stated that following a similar question at committee in 2020 he had asked for a review of all working groups to ensure that current groups were necessary. The list would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the report; and**

- (2) referred the report to the Executive, for further consideration and approval of appendices 1-3 to the report.**