

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: UPDATE ON CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
Meeting: AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date: 3 APRIL, 2009
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG)

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall the creation, in early 2007 of the Corporate Risk Management Group, which has chief officer representation from all Services and a remit to challenge and improve the delivery and integration of financial, risk management, health and safety, business continuity and civil contingencies disciplines.
- 2.2 The establishment of this group, which meets regularly, has provided an ideal forum for the co-ordination, improvement and expansion of management and audit activities relating to strategic and corporate risk.
- 2.3 Whilst, it is acknowledged that risk cannot be totally removed, the goals and objectives enshrined within the operational strategy of the Corporate Risk Management Group is to:
- Embed a risk management framework into the culture of the Council
 - Ensure compliance with statutory obligations and best practice
 - Preserve and enhance existing and future service delivery, through a systematic approach to the management of identified risks in order to increase the likelihood of the Council's objectives being achieved.
 - Safeguard the Council's employees, clients and service users, Members, pupils, tenants and all other individuals or groups to whom the Council has a duty of care.
 - Protect the Council's property, including buildings, equipment, vehicles and all other assets and resources.
 - Safeguard, enhance and promote the reputation of the Council.
 - Maintain effective control of public funds and implement sound financial planning
 - Minimise the possibility of organisational failure.
 - Support the quality of the environment
 - Aid performance management within the Council.

- 2.4 The stated objectives above, are achieved through the systematic identification, analysis, evaluation and monitoring of actions, including cost effective controls of risk that have a probability to endanger people, property, reputation and the financial stability of the Council.
- 2.5 Updates on specific issues and monitoring of identified risks are reported by Services to the Corporate Risk Management Group on an individual Service basis or via specific sub-groups (i.e. Gas Safety Steering Group, Safety at Work Group etc.) In turn, the minutes of the Group are presented to Corporate Management Team to allow proper discussions amongst officers at a corporate level and appropriate actions within Services to be undertaken.

3. CURRENT PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The group has identified, in agreement with the Internal Audit Service to improve the current strategic risk register both in content and format to better reflect the ownership of strategic issues identified by the Corporate Management Team and each individual Service.
- 3.2 Work has already commenced on revisiting the previously agreed strategic risks identified in the current register and to explore any additional risk that may have come to light due to new legislation or changes in internal and / or external events (the global financial situation, and developments in the corporate manslaughter and public health agendas) impacting on those established risk assessments or not previously catered for.
- 3.3 A strategic risk register workshop has taken place involving members of Corporate Management Team and Corporate Risk Management Group to review and update previously identified strategic risks. This has resulted in changes to the existing register and, following further discussions and completion of the final draft, will be presented to Members for approval. Such review will become an annual process.
- 3.4 Following approval, each Service will be invited to reappraise their current service based risk plans via the Corporate Risk Management Group to align with the revised strategic risk register.
- 3.5 The revised service risk plans will be presented to the CRMG for analysis and conformity with the current strategic risks identified and noted to CMT.
- 3.6 The service risk plans and their operational plans, underpin the strategic risk register and provide an interlinked, live and evolving process for managing and protecting the Councils' people and it's business.

3.7 In addition, the current issues being reviewed and considered across all Services through the CRMG include:

- Testing and development of business continuity plans
- The development and distribution of premises managers handbooks
- Further development of a new handbook to address risks faced by staff “off site”
- Development of the framework for the next generation emergency response plan
- Addressing actions arising from the Corporate Risk Management Audit

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 **Members’ are invited to note the work of the Corporate Risk Management Group and to request officers to report to future meetings of the Audit Committee on a regular basis.**

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Director of Development Services

27th March, 2009

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