

ITEM NO: 13

DECISION-MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS		
DATE OF DECISION:	25 th June 2008		
REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

NOT APPLICABLE

SUMMARY

The Council's 'Risk Management Strategy' document, approved by the Audit Committee in March 2007, states that the "Corporate Risk Management Champion" shall present an annual report to the Audit Committee summarising achievements and outlining the planned activities for the forthcoming year.

In addition, this document states that "the Risk Management Strategy will be reviewed at least annually and any significant changes reported to the Audit Committee".

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Audit Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Note and approve the Risk Management Action Plan for 2008-09 (Appendix 1).
- (ii) Note the Risk Management Action Plan 2007-08: Status Report (Appendix 2).
- (iii) Note and approve the highlighted changes to the 'Risk Management Strategy' document (Appendix 3). Note that appendix 1 of the Risk Management Strategy is not attached as there were no significant changes to this document.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report is presented to the Audit Committee in their capacity as the member body with responsibility for providing independent assurance to the Standards and Governance Committee on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control and reporting environment, including (but not limited to) the reliability of the financial reporting process and the annual governance statement.
2. The Audit Committee is also responsible for providing assurance to the Standards and Governance Committee that appropriate action is being taken on risk and internal control related issues identified by the internal and external auditors and other review and inspection bodies.

CONSULTATION

3. The Action Plan has been developed in consultation with the PCoT Resources Board together with the Chief Internal Auditor as Head of Service for the Internal Audit, Risk and Assurance Service.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. No alternative options have been considered.

DETAIL

5. Effective risk management is a key element of corporate governance, and is recognised as such in:-
 - The CIPFA/SOLACE Corporate Governance Framework;
 - CIPFA's guidance on the Annual Governance Statement; and
 - The Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment (as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment)
6. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 also state that the Council is "responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk".

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

7. NONE

Revenue

8. NONE

Property

9. No specific property implications have been identified in this report.

Other

10. NONE

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to adopt Good Governance arrangements in respect of the discharge of its functions. The above arrangements are intended to meet those responsibilities.

Other Legal Implications:

12. NONE

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. NONE

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Risk Management Action Plan 2008-09
2.	Risk Management Action Plan 2007-08: Status Report
3.	Risk Management Strategy

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	NONE
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.	None	
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Background documents available for inspection at: N/A

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FORWARD PLAN No: N/A

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: N/A