



Report of the Head of Communications & Marketing

Audit Committee – 21 July 2020

COVID-19 Recovery of Risk Management

Purpose: The report presents the plan for the recovery of risk management monitoring and reporting.

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For Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Corporate risk management, monitoring and reporting was suspended in March whilst officers were otherwise engaged or impacted following the lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 Although the pandemic is still in progress, the UK and Welsh Governments are seeking to ease the lockdown restrictions and the Council is reviewing how it can recover and return to normal business.
- 1.3 This report offers a timeline for the recovery of risk management, monitoring and reporting.

2. COVID-19 Suspension of Risk Monitoring and Reporting

- 2.1 Prior to the lockdown, officers responsible for managing risks had been asked to review and update the risks transferred from the old to the new risk register application by 31st March 2020, to ensure that risks are reviewed each month and to work to improve the quality of risk information and controls.

- 2.2 Risk monitoring and reporting was suspended before the end of March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and whilst responsible officers (for managing risks) were otherwise engaged or impacted by the lockdown; although the risk register remained open where officers retained capacity.
- 2.3 Work on developing the reporting functionality of the new Risk Register did however commence within available capacity on 1st April during the lockdown. The aim is to develop a small number of generic reports that will assist with the management of risk and help provide assurance that risks are being managed properly by responsible officers.

3. New and Residual Risks and Recovery

- 3.1 COVID-19 has changed the existing risk landscape, which needs to be captured, managed and overseen; all residual risks will need to be reviewed for the impact of COVID-19 and so have not been included in this report whilst this work is in progress.
- 3.2 Following a report to CMT in June 2020 on the recovery of Risk Management following COVID-19, all officers with responsibility for managing risks were asked to identify any new risks and review and update their residual risks and control measures in the Risk Register by 31st July 2020 for the impact and ongoing uncertainty of COVID-19 and in line with previous requests following the transfer of risks from the old to the new Risk Register; a progress report will be reviewed at CMT in August and the outcome will be reported to Audit Committee.
- 3.3 Responsible Officers will continue reviewing and improving their risks during August and beyond, so that risk monitoring reports can recommence their normal cycle starting in September. In the meantime, work to develop the reporting functionality of the risk register will continue in line with ICT priorities and availability.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 4.2 There are no direct equality implications with this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications.

Background papers: None.

Appendices: None.