

Non-Executive Report of the: Audit Committee Thursday, 26th January 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Caroline Holland, Interim Corporate Director, Resources (S.151 Officer)	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Risk Management - Corporate and Place Directorate Risk Registers	

Originating Officer(s)	Bharat Mehta
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

The management of risk is a key function for the Council. The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Risk coordinates risk management on behalf of the Council but the identification, assessment, justification, and mitigation of individual risks remains the responsibility of management.

This report presents the Audit Committee with the opportunity to review the Corporate Risk Register and Place Directorate Risk Register.

Recommendations:

The Audit Committee is recommended to:

1. **Note** the corporate risks, and where applicable request risk owner(s) with risks requiring further scrutiny to provide a detailed update on the treatment and mitigation of those risks including impact on the corporate objectives at the next Audit Committee meeting (or separately before the meeting, if urgent).
2. **Note** the Place Directorate risks and where applicable request risk owner(s) with risks requiring further scrutiny to provide a detailed update on the treatment and mitigation of their risks including impact on the directorate's objectives at the next Audit Committee meeting (or separately before the meeting if urgent).

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Audit Committee has responsibility for oversight of the arrangements for governance, risk management and control and this report assists the Audit Committee in discharging its responsibilities.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 None.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Corporate Risk Register

3.1 The Head of Internal Audit, Anti-Fraud and Risk continues to work with Corporate and service Directors to maintain the Corporate Risk Register. The updated register is attached at Appendix A. This register was presented to CLT in January 2023 for review and agreement.

3.2. The Audit Committee should review the Corporate Risks and be satisfied that the risks are appropriate. In doing so the Audit Committee may wish to consider the following questions:

- a. Are these the key, corporate level risks that might prevent the Council from achieving its objectives?
- b. Are there any key, corporate levels risks missing, bearing in mind there are many more risks being managed at Directorate and Service level?
- c. Do you want to request any of the risk owner(s) to provide a more detailed update on the treatment and mitigation of their respective risk(s) including impact on the corporate objectives?
- d. Do you require any independent assurance from Internal Audit or elsewhere that the corporate risks are being appropriately managed?

Recommendation

3.3. The Audit Committee is recommended to **note** the corporate risks, and where applicable request risk owner(s) with risks requiring further scrutiny to provide a detailed update on the treatment and mitigation of their risk including impact on the corporate objectives at the next Audit Committee meeting (or separately before the meeting if urgent).

Place Directorate Risk Register

3.4. The Audit Committee should review the Directorate risks and be satisfied that the risks are appropriate. In doing so the Audit Committee may wish to consider similar challenge questions as those presented above.

Recommendation

3.5. The Audit Committee is recommended to **note** the directorate risks, and where applicable request risk owner(s) with risks requiring further scrutiny to provide a detailed update on the treatment and mitigation of their risks including impact

on the directorate objectives at the next Audit Committee meeting (or separately before the meeting if urgent).

Future Directorate Risk Register Reviews

3.6. Going forward the Audit Committee will be presented with the other directorates risk registers on a rolling programme, in the following order:

- Resources
- Children's and Culture.
- The Chief Executive's Office

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific equalities implications.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require authorities to ensure they have a sound system of internal control which:

- facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives;
- ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective; and
- includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from the content of this report. General comments with regards the importance of effective risk management and the consequences of failure to monitor and manage organisational risks are contained within the body of the report and the appendices.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The management of risk has a direct impact on the Council's ability to deliver its functions in a manner which promotes economy efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, the consideration of this report demonstrates the Council's compliance with its Best Value Duty.
- 7.2 The Council is also legally required to ensure that it has a sound system of internal control facilitating the effective exercise of the Council's functions. This includes arrangements for the management of risk and an effective system of internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risks management, control, and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards and guidance. This report also demonstrates compliance with these legal duties.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Corporate Risk Register
- Appendix B – Place Directorate Risk Register

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

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