

Annual Assurance Report on Corporate Risk Management Arrangements

Date: 17th December 2021

Report of: Head of Intelligence and Policy Service

Report to: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This annual report presents assurances to the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee on the effectiveness of the council's corporate risk management arrangements: that they are up to date; fit for purpose; effectively communicated and routinely complied with. It explains the key arrangements in place and additional work planned for 2022.
- Effective management of the range of risks that could impact upon the city and the council supports the delivery of all Best Council Plan outcomes and priorities.

Recommendations

- a) Corporate Governance & Audit Committee is asked to receive the annual report on the council's corporate risk management arrangements and note the assurances in support of their next Annual Governance Statement.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The risk management arrangements in place support compliance with the council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy and Corporate Governance Code and Framework – Principle 6 – we will ensure that we have robust and effective audit, scrutiny, information governance, risk and financial management controls.
- 2 This annual report presents assurances to the Corporate Governance & Audit Committee on the effectiveness of the council's corporate risk management arrangements. It updates the Committee on work carried out since the previous assurance report dated 27th July 2020.
- 3 The report provides one of the sources of assurance the Committee is able to take into account when approving the Annual Governance Statement. It also enables the Committee to fulfil its role under the council's Risk Management Policy and the Committee's own Terms of Reference to review the 'adequacy of the council's Corporate Governance arrangements (including matters such as internal control and risk management)'.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 4 Some of the council's risks are 'external facing' i.e., their occurrence would have an adverse impact on citizens and communities in Leeds. Examples of our external facing risks include Major flooding, Major incident in the city and Keeping the city moving. Effective corporate risk management arrangements should help prevent these risks from arising or mitigate their impact should they occur.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 5 Key stakeholders continue to be engaged in maintaining the council's corporate risk management arrangements. As well as this Committee, these include the Executive Board, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board and the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 6 The corporate risk map is published on the council's leeds.gov website with annual reports to Executive Board on the council's most significant risks also publicly available .

What are the resource implications?

- 7 The corporate risk management arrangements set out in this report help the council to target and prioritise resources to help reduce costs, deliver savings and achieve value for money. Should any of the corporate risks arise, there would be financial and staffing resource implications to deal with the risk.

What are the legal implications?

- 8 The council's corporate risk management arrangements support the authority's compliance with the statutory requirement under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 to have 'a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and the achievement of its aims and objectives; ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective; and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.'

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 9 Without up to date, fit for purpose and embedded corporate risk management arrangements, preventable risks could arise which may have a subsequent adverse impact on resources and reputation.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 10 The corporate risk management arrangements support each of the council's three pillars. Each pillar has risks that could impact on their achievement and the risk management arrangements aim to ensure that these risks are identified and managed to prevent their occurrence or to mitigate their impact should they arise.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

11 N/A

b) How will success be measured?

12 N/A

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

13 N/A

Appendices

- 14 Appendix 1: Corporate Risk Management Arrangements

Background papers

15 None