

CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 19 January 2015

Risks & Challenges – Strategic Planning, Highways and Traffic & Transport

AGENDA ITEM: 5.1

Reason for Report

1. The Committee on 8 December 2014 determined that the Director of Strategic Planning, Highways and Traffic & Transport attend the Committee to address a number of matters. This report outlines the issues to be addressed by the Director at the January meeting of the Committee which have arisen from the Corporate Risk Register, an Internal Audit Report and an issue which has previously been captured in the Council's Annual Governance Statement. The Committee considered that a report from the Audit & Risk Manager would inform Members in advance of the Directors attendance.

Background

2. The Corporate Risk Register is a key item on the Audit Committee's Work Programme. Over recent months Members have taken the opportunity to invite Corporate Risk Owners to attend Committee to discuss their challenges and corporate risks; with the aim of providing assurance that the risks are being constantly monitored and action is being taken to mitigate the risks. The risks within a Directorate are synonymously linked to the challenges which will be evident from the Directors presentation.
3. The Internal Audit team has undertaken a follow up audit in to aspects of Highway Operations, which has been assessed as 'Limited Assurance', an Executive Summary Report is appended to the Audit & Risk Managers Quarter 3 Progress Report (Agenda item 8.1 of this meeting). Members of the Committee will have the opportunity to seek the Directors views on the audit recommendations and gain a level of assurance that they will be implemented in a timely fashion so to enhance the internal control environment.
4. On 8 December 2014, a report was presented to the Audit Committee which related to an item first brought to the Committee's attention through the Annual Governance Statement. The issue of 'Highway Bridges & Structures' had previously been raised as a significant governance issue within the Annual Governance Statement. The Committee in May 2013 received a detailed report which provided a level of assurance, and a further report in December 2014 (Appendix B), it was evident there is still challenges within this area. Given the attendance of the Director to this subsequent meeting it was considered appropriate to seek his views on this matter.

Issues

5. The Corporate Risk Register is presented to the Committee biannually prior to Cabinet. On this occasion Members will have the opportunity to explore two corporate risks in further detail; Hostile Vehicle Mitigation and the Local Development Plan (Appendix A).

6. Members of the Committee can inquire as to why the Directorate is having difficulty in implementing internal audit recommendations and what action can be taken to address them.
7. The issue regarding 'Highway Bridges & Structures' was once included in the Annual Governance Statement, this has subsequently closed as a significant issue, which continues to be managed within the Directorate.

Reasons for Recommendations

8. To seek assurance on the three areas under discussion to inform the Audit Committee's Annual Report.

Legal Implications

9. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

10. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Members note the content of this report to support discussion, enabling a view to be formed on the arrangements in place within the Strategic Planning, Highways and Traffic & Transport Directorate.

DEREK KING
Audit & Risk Manager
January 2015

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix A – Corporate Risk Summary - Strategic Planning Highways and Traffic & Transport
Appendix B – Report to Audit Committee 8 December 2014 – Highway Bridges & Structures