

Response to Major Incidents/Events

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 24th November 2009

Author: Head of Internal Audit

Wards Affected: None

Purpose

To present Members with a summary of the main issues relating to Emergency Planning, the mitigating controls that are in place to reduce the risk to the Council and how the effectiveness of these controls are monitored.

Recommendation

- It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

1 Reasons

- 1.1 The Council's Audit Committee has a strategic role to ensure that the Council's assurance framework is operating effectively. To this end it should seek assurance that key areas that contribute to this framework are operating properly.
- 1.2 Members requested that in order to gain additional assurance regarding the management of corporate risks an owner of a corporate risk would be asked to attend Audit Committee. The owner would be asked to explain what the main issues regarding the risk area were and what mitigating controls are in place to reduce the risk and how the effectiveness of these controls are monitored.

2 Detail

- 2.1 Sam Weller, the Head of the Civil Protection Unit, will attend Audit Committee and give a presentation detailing the issues regarding the corporate risk (CR07):

Risk: Responses to major incidents/events is not fully effective.

- 2.2 The presentation will include what the potential risks are, the mitigating controls in place and how the effectiveness of these controls are monitored.

Alternative Options

Not Applicable

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Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

Legal/Human Rights Implications

Internal Audit is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006. The Internal Audit service also provides assurance to the Director of Finance regarding the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Emergency Planning procedures are regulated through the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The chief requirement of the Act is to maintain plans to ensure that, if an emergency occurs or is likely to occur, each responder body can deliver its functions so far as necessary or desirable for the purpose of preventing the emergency, reducing, controlling or mitigating its effects, or taking other action in connection with it.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

Our Community Vision - 2.4; Consultation and Our Role in The Community - 3.8 and Building Neighbourhood Capacity - 6.1

Emergency plans are being encouraged and developed with parishes through the Parish Forum particularly in light of the floods of 2007 and which also accords with the Council's vision of Connecting People Connecting Places.

Closer working and integration with NHS Swindon is being undertaken which has been highlighted during the Swine Flu Pandemic. Training and exercising has taken place with major employers in the Borough such as Motorola, Zurich, Nationwide and The National Trust. Work with external and internal partners has been ongoing to encourage and empower communities to provide self-help.

Consultees

The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

Appendices / Background papers

None

Key Decision/Decision in Forward Plan

Not Applicable