

# Risk Management

## Audit Committee

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

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Author:	Head of Internal Audit
Wards:	None
Locality Affected:	None
Parishes Affected:	None

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### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 A Risk Management paper was presented to Members by the Chief Executive and Risk Manager at the November meeting of the Audit Committee. During discussions regarding the corporate risk register Members requested further information/assurance regarding the Council's arrangements for the prevention of child sexual exploitation and what Members role was in this process.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the Board Director: Commissioning would be asked to come to Audit Committee to provide assurance to Members.
- 1.3 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 effectively.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the practice of inviting corporate risk 'owners' to come to Audit Committee, to provide Members with assurance regarding the key risks facing the Council, be incorporated in the Committee's work plan. If this is agreed then the Chair of Audit Committee will select future risks to be covered in conjunction with other Committee Members and the Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Risk Manager.

### 3. Detail

#### Background

- 3.1 Audit Committee are presented with regular update reports regarding risk management activity within the Council along with the latest corporate risk register.
- 3.2 The corporate risk register is updated and agreed quarterly with Corporate Board members. It reflects current and emerging strategic risks from across the organisation. Mitigating actions are actively monitored for implementation and effectiveness as part of this process.
- 3.3 The latest Risk Management update report was presented to the November 2014 meeting of the Committee. During discussions regarding the Council's corporate

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risk register Members requested further information/assurance regarding the Council's arrangements for the prevention of child sexual exploitation and what Members role was in this process.

### Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation

- 3.4 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is among the most serious and challenging issues that any Council will face. A report setting out how the Council will further enhance its work in this area and a proposed strategy and associated delivery plan was taken to and agreed by Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
- 3.5 The report to Cabinet including the Strategy and Delivery plan is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.6 The Strategy does not pre-empt any new recommendations that may come out from any new national reports, research documents, local case reviews or other new learning. It does however take into account the national guidance, reports of recent high profile cases across the country, the Ofsted thematic CSE Review and other research of note.
- 3.7 The Board Director: Commissioning will be attending Audit Committee to provide assurance regarding the Council's arrangements that are in place to prevent child sexual exploitation. He will also cover the role of Members in that process and answer any questions that Members may have.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Not Applicable

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report however the detailed Cabinet report attached states that 'The Council has already provided some additional resources to fund a CSE Operational Manager and provided some additional social work resources to meet service demand. No further new financial resources are being sought at this time.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Internal Audit is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. The Internal Audit service also provides assurance to the Board Director: Resources regarding the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 No additional implications have been identified to those identified in the Cabinet report attached.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 Not applicable (this has been covered in the Cabinet report attached).

### Risk Management

- 5.5 CSE is appropriately registered on the Risk Register for the services.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 Board Director: Commissioning
- 6.2 The Board Director: Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 None

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Report to Cabinet regarding ‘Strategy to prevent Child Sexual exploitation’