

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE: 12 JULY 2023
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
AUTHOR: ANDREW LEADBETTER

SUBJECT: NEW RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members about the risk management arrangements and to allow them to consider the strategic risks contained on the Strategic Risk Register.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] consider the report and appended documentation
- [2] consider the strategic risks
- [3] determine whether any enhancements to the risk management arrangements described in this report are necessary

Background

2. The Audit Committee was created by the Fire Authority in April 2022, following a recommendation from the External Auditor.
3. Since then its responsibilities have been expanded. Its purpose is:

To provide an independent high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk and control arrangements.

and its risk-related responsibility is:

Consider the effectiveness of the authority's risk management arrangements. It should understand the risk profile of the organisation and seek assurances that active arrangements are in place on risk-related issues, for both the body and its collaborative arrangements.

4. The work of the Risk Management Board, which included two elected Members, is now split between the Audit Committee and the Risk Management Group (RMG) which is made up of senior officers.

Information

5. The Terms of Reference for the RMG are attached to this report as Appendix 1. The RMG will meet quarterly prior to meetings of the Audit Committee.
6. The RMG met for the first time on 14th June 2023. Members have been supplied with a copy of the Agenda for the RMG. The minutes of the RMG are attached to this report as Appendix 2.
7. Members will be shown the corporate risks at the meeting and will see that the minutes of the RMG contain some narrative and actions associated with those risks.
8. Members are encouraged to provide feedback on the new risk management arrangements. A couple of questions are posed below:

In future, do Members need a copy of the RMG agenda, or will the Minutes suffice?

Are Members happy with the way that the corporate risks have been considered at this meeting?

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications associated with the report.

Legal Implications

10. The arrangements that are described in this report are intended to ensure that the Authority's risk management is robust.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. There are no equality and diversity implications associated with the report.

Environmental Implications

12. There are no environmental implications associated with the report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**