

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 6th July 2021

Subject: Annual Review of the OPCC risk management policy 2021-22

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Purpose of the Report:

The PCC's risk management policy has been reviewed as part of an annual review process and is presented for comment, prior to formal approval by the PCC.

Recommendation:

The Committee are asked to consider the PCC's risk management policy which has been reviewed by the Treasurer and Chief Executive and has been shared with OPCC staff to invite feedback. Comments have been received and incorporated into the final document, as part of the review process, and the Committee are asked to make any further comments and suggest amendments prior to the policy being approved by the PCC.

Background:

The risk management policy was last brought to this Committee in late July 2020, and was subsequently approved by the PCC. The document was fundamentally reviewed following the transition away from the alliance, and the shared risk management policy with West Mercia. Over the last 12 months the risk management process has become more embedded at the OPCC and staff have been briefed on the policy, their risk management responsibilities and input and discussion on operational risks is used to inform the regular review of strategic risks. The policy will continue to be refreshed at least annually to ensure that it remains fit for purpose to mitigate and manage OPCC risks.

Executive summary

The review of the strategy is necessary to ensure that it:

- reflects Warwickshire PCC's needs and approach to risk management (including process and procedure),
- to ensure that it complies with best practice and appropriate legislation,
- is more consistent with the approach taken by the force to make the document more 'familiar' to users and

provides the appropriate governance arrangements for risk management, so that our risk register accurately reflects the risks for Warwickshire PCC, provides a suitable risk management framework, clear risk management objectives and benefits and also outlines the roles and responsibilities for dealing with risk at the OPCC.

The strategic risk register is updated regularly and is reported to each of the JASC meetings to manage and mitigate risks. This process will continue.

The main changes in the risk management policy address where relevant, the key recommendations in the recent internal audit on risk management. The audit opinion provided moderate assurance regarding the process and the key actions can be summarised as:

- Policies and procedures – the strategic risk map doesn't show previous and inherent risk, only current risk
- Risk management training and support, including: regular discussion of operational and strategic risk, training for staff, accountability and recording of operational risks
- Central register of operational risks needs to be fully developed.
- Risk management is not embedded in organisational practice at service area level in line with the ALARM Risk Maturity Model for Risk Management in the Public Services at level 3 which is the accepted level
- Governance and reporting - better oversight of operational and project risks. Strategic risks should be aligned with force risks.

Work is ongoing at the OPCC to address these audit actions, upskill staff and further embed processes, the risk management policy has also been updated where necessary to reflect and address these actions.

The JASC's key responsibility in this regard, is outlined fully in their terms of reference and is covered under the governance, risk and control principle, whereby the JASC are required to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management, review the risk profile, and monitor progress of the PCC/Chief Constable in addressing risk-related issues reported to them.