

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – WECA AUDIT COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2020

QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted by the deadline (full details of questions set out in the following pages):

Q1. Question from: Cllr Clive Stevens

Subject: Risk Management Update (Item 13)

Q2. Question from: Cllr Clive Stevens

Subject: Risk Management Update (Item 13)

QUESTION 1 – 27 FEBRUARY 2020

Question from: Cllr Stevens

Subject: Risk Management Update (Item 13)

Question:

I see the action plan for M1 (page 6) recognises the problems of risk reviews not being up to date. It lists the potential implications (column 2) if this is not done but neglects the potential implication and reputational damage that councillors and the public will think WECA is incompetent if it doesn't do this. **Will you please add this?**

REPLY:

Thank you for your question. For clarity, this action plan was written by Audit West in February 2019 and represents their view of this impact this risk at that point in time. Subsequent to this a number of enhancements and improvements have been made to further embed risk management across the organisation, and these are reflected in our updated risk management framework.

QUESTION 2 – 27 February 2020

Question from: Cllr Stevens

Subject: Risk Management Update (Item 13)

The next page details the actions and says: “A full update on Service and Corporate Risks will be brought to Management Team every two months”. That’s good. In fact the written answer I was given in October 2019 was a review every month – but bimonthly will do.

Then we move to Appendix 2 (the risk register) and I look down the right hand column and see some risks have been reviewed recently. Interestingly three of the nine have review dates before November 2019 and one is dated 2018. That one is down to the Chief Executive as the risk owner presumably with responsibility to review it. The other two are March and July 2019 and are down to senior management too. All three are more than two months ago (I have allowed you the Nov 2019 dates).

So in summary we have a report that says risks will be reviewed every two months, and a risk register in which a third of the risks were reviewed over six months ago. I also note that all the risks relate to the management processes and none to the actual projects themselves all with risks of cost overruns, delays etc **Perhaps you could reconcile this please and restore my faith in the competence of WECA’s senior management and also confirm whether these project risks are scrutinised anywhere?**

REPLY:

Thank you for your question. The following clarifications may be helpful:

As detailed in the Audit West follow up review to which you refer, and as set out in our risk management framework, the Service and Corporate risks are circulated to Management Team every month for discussion at the monthly meeting. A written report is provided bi-monthly and a verbal update on the alternate month.

The right-hand column of the risk register indicates the date an individual risk entry was updated. The risk register itself is reviewed monthly as set out in our risk management framework. The risk you refer to from 2018 in relation to potential changes in national priorities is a standing risk for which our mitigation remains unchanged.

Project delivery risks are managed at project and programme level, as set out in the risk management framework. These are reviewed each month and feed up into the service risk registers which in turn feed into the corporate risk register.

