

Risk Management - Risk Registers including Major Partnerships

Although guidance and procedures are in place, particularly for the management of service risks, the approach to documenting the risks of major projects was found to be inconsistent and there was a lack of evidence that all the project sponsors were monitoring projects after funding had been approved.

It appears that Managers have been anticipating the implementation of TEN and have as a result seen the updating of Magique as a low priority. There is also evidence that some services use Magique more than others.

Reporting to Senior Management on significant risks has ceased since the Council restructured but this needs to be brought back on schedule. The Procurement & Risk Manager has agreed that the implementation of the system will provide an ideal opportunity to address the issues around the regularity of system updates by managers, through training and guidance.

Register of Interests – Staff

South Somerset District Council have demonstrated their compliance with the Local Government Act through the guidance given in the Staff Code of Conduct. They also have a robust procedure for dealing with any complaints.

Unfortunately despite these controls, there is a lack of uniform good practice across the Council at present and we cannot give reasonable assurance as it is likely that some staff have not declared interests which could have an impact if they were found to be undertaking other duties that conflict with their Council duties.

By implementing the recommendations made in this report, reasonable or comprehensive assurance can be given.

Car Parks Follow-Up

The 2010 report highlighted a number of control weaknesses, the results of this follow up review shows that only 5 of the 11 agreed actions had been put in place and were being consistently followed. Some improvements have been made by the Engineering and Property Services Manager however I am disappointed that two agreed actions have still not been implemented:

- Quarterly inspections – this has been recognised as a problem each year and it is not an area that should be missed, improvements to collating and monitoring information has been developed and should be introduced from January 2011
- Missed collections from ticket machines are refunded by Loomis – missed collections should be identified within 90 days and a request for a credit note made by the Engineering and Property Services Manager however this is not carried out regularly and checked to ensure received.