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To: Governance and Audit Committee – 24th July 2013

Subject: **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

Governance & Audit Committee receives the Corporate Risk Register every six months for assurance purposes. The register is presented to the Committee along with an overview of the changes since last presented and an outline of the ongoing process of monitoring and review.

FOR ASSURANCE

1. Introduction and background

1.1 The Corporate Risk Register is maintained by the Corporate Risk Team on behalf of Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team. The register is formally reviewed annually, but is a 'living document' and is reviewed and updated in-year to reflect any significant new risks or changes in risk exposure that may arise due to internal or external events; and to track progress against mitigating actions.

2. Corporate Risk Register

2.1 The Corporate Risk Register contains eleven risks. Changes since the register was last reported to Governance & Audit Committee in December 2012 are as follows:

2.2 A risk relating to 'Ash Dieback' disease has been added to the register (Risk CRR 15 in appendix 1). This relates to the potential spread of disease that could affect large numbers of ash trees in the county.

2.3 A risk relating to 'Localism' has now been removed from the Corporate Register, as the relevant mitigating actions were completed since the risk was highlighted in late 2011.

2.4 Of the eleven risks, there are three areas of risk currently rated as "high". These relate to safeguarding; management of social care demand; and potential implications of the Welfare Reform Act. The other eight risks are currently rated as "Medium".

2.5 Further details of these risks, including controls and mitigating actions, are contained in the register at appendix 1.

2.6 The Corporate Risk Team supports directorates to ensure that the Corporate Risk Register is underpinned by Divisional and Directorate Risk Registers, from which risks can be escalated in accordance with KCC's Risk Management Policy. Directorate Risk Registers are reviewed quarterly by Directorate Management Teams and are reported annually to Cabinet Committees in January.

3. Monitoring & Review

3.1 There is a particular focus on ensuring that key mitigating actions are identified and progress monitored. The risks within the Corporate Risk Register, their current risk level and progress against mitigating actions are reported quarterly to Cabinet via the Quarterly Performance Report. Insufficient progress against mitigating actions is referred to the Performance & Evaluation Board for review.

3.2 A more formal refresh of the Corporate Risk Register is conducted each autumn, taking into account comments from Corporate Directors and Cabinet Members, and is presented to Cabinet.

4. Risk Management Information System

4.1 The contents of the Corporate Risk Register have been entered onto a risk management database, which is being developed as a central repository of risk information, thus enabling risk and action owners to monitor and manage risks and actions and to make adjustments as they arise. Reports are being configured to facilitate easier analysis of risks and gain an improved picture of cumulative risk exposure.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to NOTE the assurance provided in relation to the development and maintenance of the Corporate Risk Register.

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