

Audit Committee

19 March 2020



Title	Corporate Risk Management Policy		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Terry Collier		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tony Harman	Confidential	Choose an item.
Corporate Priority	Financial Sustainability		
Recommendations	That the Committee reviews the draft Corporate Risk Management Policy and feedback to officer any suggestions to revisions		
Reason for Recommendation	As existing Corporate Risk Management Policy has not been refreshed for a number of years it is timely to update the Policy.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The nature and complexity of the Council's operations and the service context it operates within has increased significantly in recent years. It is therefore right that the Council refreshes its Corporate Risk Management Policy and Guidance. This follows on from the training session members of the Audit Committee had with Elizabeth Humphrey in October 2019.
- 1.2 All activities that the Council undertakes involve risk and opportunity. We manage these risks and opportunities by identifying and analysing them and then evaluating whether action should be taken so that the risk or opportunity falls within our risk appetite. The Council believes that risks should be managed rather than avoided and that consideration of risk should not stifle innovation and creativity, but should enable it to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. The draft policy outlines the Council's approach to the management of risks and opportunities, using a structured, focused and proportional approach.
- 1.3 The draft Policy has been discussed at the officer Corporate Risk Management Group on 4th March and has been refined in light of feedback.
- 1.4 It will be noted that the Policy sets out the Council's approach to Risk Management and sets out the links between risk management, corporate planning and operational management,. The guidance explains the corporate approach to scoring risk. The Policy sets out a suggested corporate view on

Risk Appetites, see section 8 of the report and Appendix 1) which builds on the discussion with Audit Committee members.

- 1.5 The Policy addresses, section 9, the approach to Risk Register including the Corporate Risk Register. This links to the updated approach towards the Corporate Risk Register and the focus on a smaller number of corporate risks which impact on the delivery of corporate objectives. See the separate Corporate Risk Register report on the Agenda of this meeting.
- 1.6 Once the Corporate Risk Management Policy has been approved it is intended to have a programme to raise manager's awareness. The Corporate Risk Management Group suggested provide two hour "bite size" refresher training sessions. An executive summary will be produced to aid communication of the key elements of the Policy.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The Corporate Risk Management Policy which has been appended to this report, is very much a draft, and officers would welcome feedback from Members of the Committee on any suggestions as to how the Policy can be refined before it is finalised. Officers would like to publish the report by the end of the current financial year, ie by 31 March 2020.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 None directly. However, good risk management arrangements helps mitigate financial risks as well as other forms of risk.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 As commented above effective corporate risk management helps protect the organisation against all forms of risk including with respect to Human Relations, legal challenge, addressing Sustainability issues.

5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 New Policy to be approved by 31 March 2020.

Background papers:

Appendices: 1- Draft Corporate Risk Management Policy and Guidance