

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk
Date of Meeting	18 January 2018

RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The Committee to consider and approve the Risk Management Framework.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider and approve the Risk Management Framework.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure effective risk management across the Council.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

N/A

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is organisational resilience.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The purpose of the Risk Management Framework is to set out the Council's approach to risk management. Risk management is a dynamic process involving all levels of the Council. If the Council does not manage risk effectively it could lead to legal proceedings or harm to service users, employees or members of the public. It is the responsibility of every employee to be aware of and manage risks within their service.

5.2 The aim of the Risk Management Framework is to enable the Council to identify, evaluate and cost-effectively control risks, and ensure any residual risk is at an acceptable level. It is intended to promote best practice in risk management at all levels and in all activities, including those delivered with external partners, and links into the Council's framework for good governance.

5.3 The Council's risk management approach is for risk to be managed and owned by senior officers and managers in directorates, service areas and projects, with a small team in Risk Services providing risk management governance and support. The objectives of the Council's approach to effective risk management are as follows:

- Maintaining the Council's reputation and public image.
- Improving the quality of business decisions, minimising risk and maximising opportunity.
- Providing better protection to staff, service users, residents, assets and resources.
- Reducing costs by minimising error and failure to the extent that it is cost effective.
- Sustaining an innovative approach to Council activities by ensuring that risk management is integral to all strategic and business planning.
- Ensuring greater ownership by managers of risk management and the systems of internal control.
- Successful integration of risk management into systems and project based development, contracting and partnership arrangements.
- Supporting the efficient and effective integration of recovery, emergency and contingency plans.
- Continually embedding risk management into the culture of the organisation.

The Risk Management Framework sets out how the above objectives are achieved.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a): Risk Management Framework

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Council has a duty to effectively manage its risks and protect public funds.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 Risk management activity should be focused on using existing employees where possible.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 N/A

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The aim of risk management is to try, as far as possible, to minimise things going wrong therefore avoiding unplanned financial impacts.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Implementing the framework is a key tool in risk management and helps services and the Council effectively deploy resources in a coordinated manner should an incident occur.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 N/A

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has been undertaken via the Corporate Risk Management Group and approval obtained from the Corporate Leadership Team.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 N/A