

**TO: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

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**RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**  
**(Head of Audit and Risk Management)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report presents the updated Risk Management Strategy to the Governance and Audit Committee for approval.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to review and agree the updated Risk Management Strategy at Appendix 1.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 To ensure that the Risk Management Strategy is consistent with current procedures and focuses on the relevant priorities for risk management.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 The decision could be taken to not update the Strategy but it would then not reflect progress made in embedding risk management, would be inconsistent with current procedures for managing risk and would not include the present risk management priorities.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Risk Management Strategy

5.1 The Risk Management Strategy was last approved by the Governance and Audit Committee in June 2017. It has now been reviewed to reflect the latest Council Plan, clarify responsibilities, include a worked example for the scoring methodology and RAG rating and update the priorities for risk management at the Council. The current priorities as set out in the updated Strategy can be summarised as follows:

1	Developing strategies to address key risks to reaching financial sustainably for the longer term.
2	Monitoring the impact of Brexit for the Council
3	Developing a pandemic recovery strategy, encompassing a long-term delivery and operational model for the Council post Covid.
4	Reviewing the Council's resilience and mitigation strategies in response to increasing cyber threats
5	Revisiting risk appetite in relation to the insurance strategy for insurable risks within the financial constraints of the Council.

6	Mapping climate change risks including identifying the specific risks to the Council's goals for protecting and enhancing the environment.
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- 5.2 Feedback was sought on the updated Strategy from the Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG) and the Corporate Management Team (CMT). All comments received have been incorporated in the updated Strategy attached at Appendix 1 for the Governance and Audit Committee to review and approve. Changes made as part of the update are marked as tracked changes.

## 6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

### Legal Advice

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. However effective risk management helps to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.

### Financial Advice

- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The proposal can, however, assist the Council's financial situation by helping ensure that financial risks are understood and considered appropriately as part of an overall framework for managing overall risks.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not applicable.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 An up to date Risk Management Strategy setting out the current priorities for embedding risk management is essential for setting out the direction for effective risk management at the Council.

## 7 CONSULTATION

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The principal groups consulted were CMT and SRMG.

### Method of Consultation

- 7.2 The draft updated Risk Management Strategy was reviewed by SRMG and e CMT on 12<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> December respectively. All amendments suggested have been included in the Strategy attached at Appendix 1.

### Contact for further information

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### Doc. Ref

Risk Management Strategy



# BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH COUNCIL

## RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Framework for Managing Opportunity and Risk

VERSION	DATE	APPROVED BY
Version 1	29/11/2011	Governance and Audit Committee
Version 2	1/4/2014	Governance and Audit Committee
Version 3	June 2017	Governance and Audit Committee
Version 4	January 2021	

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## BACKGROUND

In 2019 the Council agreed a new plan setting out a clear and focussed approach that will address the financial challenges for the next 4 years.

The plan focuses on the things that matter most to Bracknell residents and is at the heart of everything we do. In challenging times, residents can be assured that we will provide the strong leadership, financial stability and strong corporate governance to ensure that core services are maintained. A key objective is to ensure that Bracknell Forest stays prosperous and remains a good place to live, work and play. We will work with other organisations to deliver good quality local services in a joined-up way, focusing on individuals' needs.

Bracknell Forest is a place where diversity and cultural heritage are recognised as a strength. We will encourage vibrant local groups and work to ensure everyone feels connected and able to actively participate. We recognise we spend tax payers money. We will prioritise spending wisely based upon clearly identified needs, targeting in particular:

- Reducing our impact on climate change.
- Ensuring early help is available for our most vulnerable residents to keep them safe and to help them remain independent, whilst avoiding loneliness and isolation.
- Reducing homelessness.
- Developing all age learning and life skills.
- Maintaining value for money.

The Council Plan for 2019-2023 sets out six strategic themes which collectively form the vision for the borough.

Theme 1: Value for money

Theme 2: Economic resilience

Theme 3: Education and Skills

Theme 4: Caring for You and Your Family

Theme 5: Protecting and enhancing the Environment

Theme 6: Communities.

The Council recognises that we live in an uncertain world, where the people, environment and communities of Bracknell Forest may be at risk particularly during the pandemic and subsequent recovery period which may prove to be protracted. To help deliver our corporate and future objectives as we move forward in the recovery environment, we must ensure that the management of risk is embedded in the day to day operation of the Council and all decision making processes.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk is an unexpected event or action that can adversely affect the Council's ability to achieve its objectives and successfully execute its strategies. The event may be foreseeable but one over which the Council has little or no control other than to manage or mitigate its impacts. It can be a positive (an opportunity) or negative (a threat). The Council recognises that as an organisation accountable to the public we have a duty to manage risks. Risk Management is a framework by which the Council can view, manage and respond to risk, both threats and opportunities, in a robust, systematic and documented way. It is about making the most of opportunities by making the right decisions and about achieving objectives once those decisions are made through controlling, transferring and living with risks.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The environment in which the Council operates has changed considerably in recent times. The organisation has faced a sustained period of significant financial pressures. The Council's transformation programme encompasses the response to this position moving forward. Risk

mitigation will inevitably be limited by how much we have to spend. The Risk Management Strategy provides focus by clarifying the Council's policy, priorities and approach to identifying and mitigating those risks that might hinder the Council in meeting its Vision.

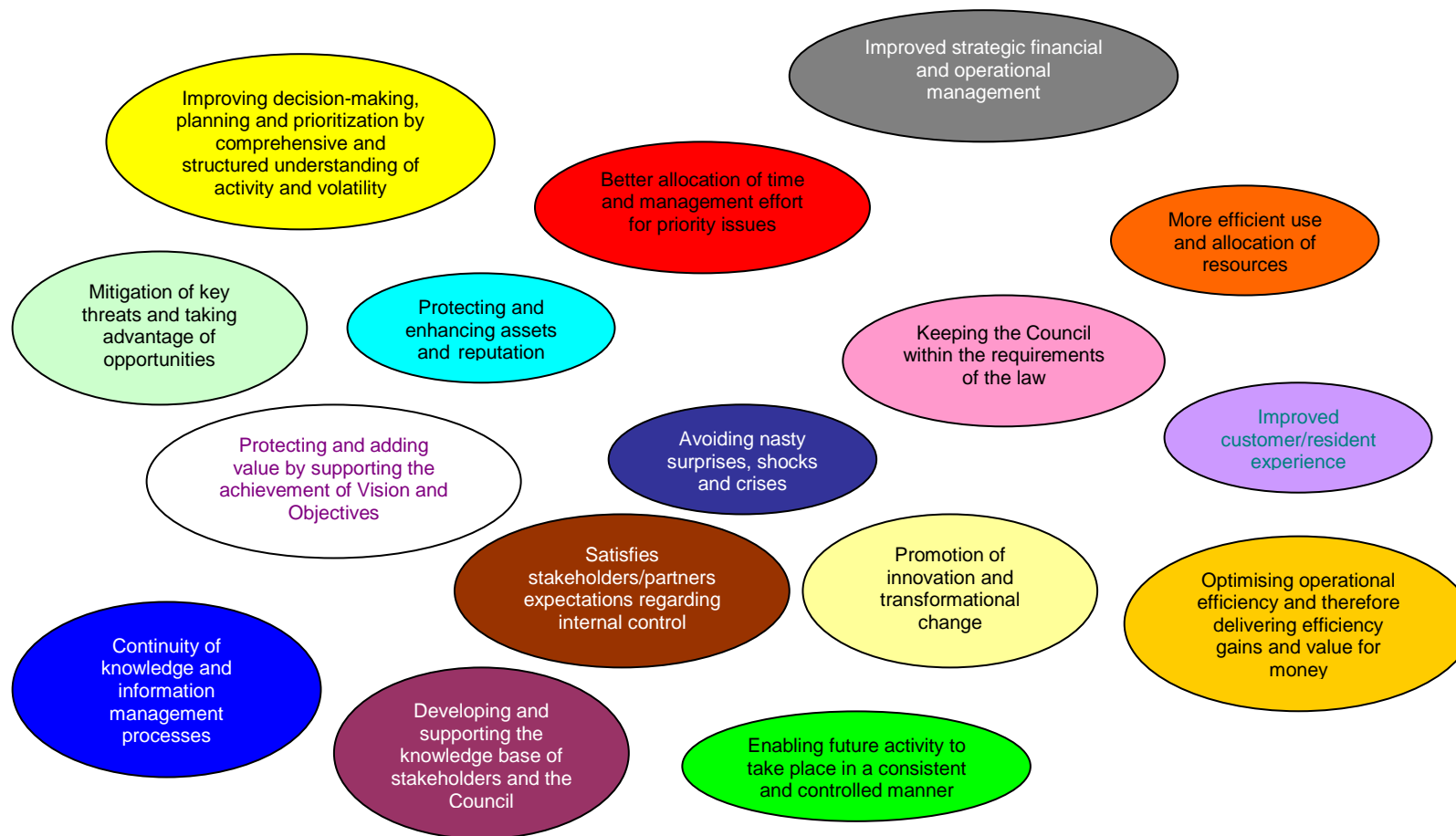
Staff, residents and partners will be better informed about the role of the Council, the direction of travel and the sought after outcomes. This will help the Council and partners deliver a better service to residents and increase the ability of residents to be involved in the work of the Council.

## **BENEFITS OF RISK MANAGEMENT**

Effective risk management improves strategic, operational and financial management, continuity of knowledge and information management processes, improved statutory compliance, meeting best practice and ultimately improving the services we deliver.

Successful implementation of Risk Management will produce many benefits for the Council if it becomes a living tool. Figure 1 below sets out just a few of the benefits to be gained:

**FIGURE 1. BENEFITS OF EFFECTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT**



## RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

The Council is committed to adopting best practices in the identification, evaluation and control of risks in order to:

- strengthen the ability of the Council in achieving its vision, priorities, underlying principles and objectives and enhance the value of the services it provides;
- enable Members and senior management to make the best informed decisions based on full knowledge of all known threats and opportunities;
- heighten the understanding of all the positive risks (opportunities) as well as negative risks (threats) that the Council faces;
- help enable the Council to be risk aware and less risk adverse
- integrate and embed proactive risk management into the culture of the Council;
- manage risks cost-effectively and to an acceptable level;
- reduce the risk of injury and damage;
- protect the Council's reputation;
- help secure value for money;
- enhance partnership and project working; and
- raise awareness of the need for risk management.

In terms of the basic principles which underpin our approach to risk management, it is the Council's policy to ensure that:

- There is a single corporate approach to risk management which is adopted consistently by services, projects and partnerships;

- The roles and responsibilities for risk management are clearly defined, communicated and understood by all staff;
- Risk assessments are undertaken as part of all strategic decision-making;
- Risk assessment is an integral part of the corporate and service planning process;
- Risks are identified, evaluated and recorded;
- Risks the Council faces are managed by implementing measures to avoid, reduce and control them to within the Council's risk tolerance level;
- Actions plans to address risks are documented and fit for purpose;
- Collaborative arrangements are subject to risk assessments
- Projects and programmes manage risk throughout their life cycles in line with the corporate programme and project management approaches.

The Council's Strategic Risk Management Group is responsible for the implementation of a unified risk management strategy, the promotion of risk awareness and the monitoring of the effectiveness of risk management measures undertaken. Risk management is a continuous process that demands awareness and action. It is the responsibility of each Service Area to comply with the Council's Risk Management Policy and the corporate approach to risk management. Senior Managers are accountable for managing risks to which their area is exposed whilst all employees have duty to support the Council's initiative by managing risks within their control.



Figure 2



## RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning. In addition, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2019 place a wider statutory duty on local authorities to have a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the body's functions and which includes arrangements for management of risk. The Council recognises that risk and risk management is a wider issue and in response to this has put in place a range of measures which feed into an overarching framework for managing threats and opportunities. The key elements of the risk management framework documented in this Risk Management Strategy are shown in Figure 2. The Risk Management Strategy will be reviewed every three years.

# KEY ELEMENTS OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

## Strategic Risk Management

Strategic risks are those risks that could potentially have a fundamental impact for the Council and its objectives and hence need to be owned and managed by the Corporate Management Team (CMT). These risks are included in the Strategic Risk Register. This Register is maintained by the Head of Audit and Risk Management and is reviewed and updated quarterly by the Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG) and at least twice a year by CMT. Twice yearly feedback on the Register is sought from the Governance and Audit Committee which has responsibility for ensuring satisfactory risk management arrangements are in place.

Update of the Strategic Risk Register is informed by the other risk registers in place across the Council as it is recognised that some service, project and collaborative arrangement risks may have the potential to impact on corporate objectives.

## Operational Risk Management

Risks that are more appropriate to management at service level should be included in Directorate Risk Registers. These should be maintained within each directorate and reviewed on a regular basis, ideally once a quarter, by the Departmental Management Team (DMT) and should be made available to the Head of Audit and Risk Management to inform the Strategic Risk Register.

## Project Risk Management

Project Managers should ensure that risk registers are in place for all major projects. These should be reviewed on a regular basis throughout the lifecycle of the project as part of the project management process and should be made available to the Head of Audit and Risk Management to inform the Strategic Risk Register.

## Collaborative Arrangements

In local government collaborative arrangements include, for example: contracts, strategic delivery partnerships, Joint Ventures, shared service arrangements and so on. Whilst such arrangements can bring significant benefits, they also bring threats and opportunities that must be understood and managed. Risks should be monitored and reported throughout the life-cycle of the partnership arrangement in accordance with a formal documented approach and timetable agreed by all partners.

## Risk Management in Reports for Decision

Reports for decision making should include an assessment of risk. Officers must consider any significant risks relating to the proposals contained in the report and provide details of these in the Strategic Risk Management Issues Section together with any action being taken to mitigate these risks.

## Health and Safety

The Corporate Safety Team provides support, assistance and guidance to managers on a wide range of health and safety issues. This is achieved mainly via a programme of audits, development of procedures and best practice, proactive project work, promotion and awareness, attendance at a variety of meetings and accident and incident investigation.

## Business Continuity

The Council has a statutory duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to have business continuity plans and ensure they are maintained, exercised and reviewed.

Business continuity management is a process that helps manage risks and ensures the smooth running of an organisation or delivery of a service.

Our plans ensure that we can respond to a significant interruption to key services and continue to provide critical functions. Corporate and departmental plans are now in place for the Council with departmental leads identified to coordinate the planning process and in the event of need.

In order to be successful, business continuity must be regarded as an integral part of our organisation's normal ongoing management processes therefore ownership and responsibility for ensuring effectiveness of the process rests with the Strategic Risk Management Group.

## Emergency Planning

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires each local authority to work with other agencies in order to plan, prepare, respond to and recover from emergencies in the community.

The objectives of Emergency Planning are to:

- save life
- prevent escalation of an emergency.
- relieve suffering.
- safeguard the environment.
- protect property.
- continue to maintain services at an appropriate level.
- inform the public.
- promote self help and recovery.
- restore normality as soon as possible.

- evaluate the response and identify lessons to be learned.
- facilitate criminal investigations or other inquiries.

The emergency planning function identifies the procedures and organisation necessary to ensure the provision, mobilisation and co-ordination of Bracknell Forest Council services and resources when dealing with an emergency. This is achieved through a program of training and exercising so that staff are prepared.

## Public Health

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, responsibility for improving health and minimising the risk and impact of illness in the local population rests with local authorities. The Act also places responsibility on the Council to provide public health advice and intelligence to the local Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England for the commissioning of health services to meet local needs.

## Insurance

The purpose of insurance is to provide financial protection against specified contingencies such as injury, damage, or loss. However, the availability of insurance is no substitute for good risk management. By managing risk effectively, service managers can minimise the number and severity of losses and subsequent insurance claims.

The Insurance Section provides specialist expertise in all areas of insurance practice, assisted by external insurance brokers and consultants. This includes:

- Identification of risks to be covered by the purchase of insurance from an external provider
- The maintenance of all insurance databases, including detailed information in respect of claims and losses, together with the production of appropriate reports

to service managers and the Strategic Risk Management Group.

- Giving information and advice to the Council's service managers on insurance matters, including potential risks and liabilities which may need to be considered.
- The processing of insurance claims made on behalf of or brought against the Council, including working with the Council's Insurance Brokers, insurance companies, loss adjusters or solicitors, as appropriate.
- Advise on a funding strategy and management of internal insurance schemes.
- Providing a range of dedicated insurance covers and services for schools.

## Reserves and Balances

Reserves and balances provide a financial safety net enabling the Council's services to be maintained following an unexplained event. The level of reserves and balances is linked directly to risk. In short, the greater the unmitigated risks, the more the Council needs to retain in reserves and balances.

## Internal Audit of Controls

The responsibility for putting in place satisfactory internal controls to protect assets and maintain effective stewardship of public monies rests with managers.

The Council is required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2019 to "undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance." Internal audit is an assurance function that feeds into the risk management framework in providing an independent and objective opinion to the

organisation on the adequacy of the control environment. Internal Audit identifies weaknesses in controls and patterns of non-compliance and raises recommendations for improvement in action plans agreed with management.

## External Audit and Inspections

External audit provides further assurance on the Council's stewardship of public monies by reporting on the arrangements put in place to ensure the proper conduct of the Council's financial affairs.

The Council's schools and services are subject to inspections by external bodies such as OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission. External inspections provide independent assurance on the effectiveness of risk management, particularly the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

## RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

The Council has in place a methodology for evaluating each risk using a five by five scoring system as set out in Figure 3 to determine current residual risk and target risk score. The current residual risk is the present score after existing mitigation measures. The target risk score is the risk score the Council is aiming for and equates to the risk appetite. The Institute of Risk Management (IRM) consider risk appetite an essential element of good risk management practices.

Each risk is analysed as red, amber or green. Whilst this is in the end a judgement view, the principle generally applied is based on how far apart the current risk and the target risk scores are on the risk matrix below. If the current residual score equates or is lower than the target risk score in the risk matrix then the risk is assessed as green and no further action is needed as the risk is deemed to be at an acceptable level. Where current residual risk score is one cell higher than the target risk in any direction, this would be considered amber and if the difference is more than one in any direction the risk would generally be considered red as there is further to go to bring the risk score down to the target risk score that the Council is aiming for. A worked example is shown below:

Example Figure 3

LIKELIHOOD	5					<b>LIKELIHOOD:</b> 5 Very High 4 High 3 Significant 2 Low 1 Almost Imp	
	4						
	3		C,Staffing target score		D,Staffing target score		
	2	A,Staffing target score	<b>STAFFING CURRENT RESIDUAL SCORE</b>				
	1		B.Staffing target score				
		1	2	3	4		5
IMPACT							

RISK	RISK RAG RATING			
	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D
Staffing risk	Green	Green	Amber	Red

Red and amber risks both need to be managed and additional mitigation needs to be taken to bring them down to the target risk score. Greatest focus should be placed on red risks.

More detailed guidance on identifying and scoring risks in line with the methodology is set out in a separate Risk Management Toolkit.

## **RISK APPETITE AND TOLERANCE**

Our scoring methodology and target risk scores are broadly based on risk appetite which as defined by the Institute of Risk Management (IRM) relates to the pursuit of risk, being the amount of risk that an organisation is willing to seek or accepts in order to meet its long term objectives. The Council continues to assess target risk with the option to shift the target risk score to a risk tolerance basis being the maximum amount of risk that the Council can deal with rather than what it would ideally wish to accept. This acknowledges that there may be circumstances where there is no alternative, such as where severe financial constraints are faced.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES**

The following key priorities have been identified:

1	Developing strategies to address key risks to reaching financial sustainably for the longer term.
2	Monitoring the impact of Brexit for the Council
3	Developing a pandemic recovery strategy, encompassing a long-term delivery and operational model for the Council post Covid.
4	Reviewing the Council's resilience and mitigation strategies in response to increasing cyber threats
5	Revisiting risk appetite in relation to the insurance strategy for insurable risks within the financial constraints of the Council.
6	Mapping climate change risks including identifying the specific risks to the Council's goals for protecting and enhancing the environment.

# RISK MANAGEMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## APPENDIX 1

### Executive

- Significant changes to strategic risks will be summarised in the quarterly Corporate Performance Overview Report (CPOR) considered by the Executive; and
- Risk management considerations should be assessed on each report presented to Members, in the same way as financial and legal implications.

### Lead Member for Risk Management

- A Member "Lead" for risk management will be nominated by the Leader;
- The role of Lead Member will include promoting the application of risk management and related training to Members;
- The Lead Member will promote robust risk management in decision making by Members;
- The use of risk assessments within reports for decision making will be encouraged by the Lead Member; and
- The Lead Member will promote robust risk management reporting to the Executive and Governance and Audit Committee.

### Members

- Take reasonable steps to consider the risks involved in the decisions taken by them
- Have an understanding of the risks facing the Council and the Borough.

### Governance and Audit Committee

- Changes identified as part of CMT's periodic reviews of the Risk Management Strategy and Guidance incorporating the Risk Management Policy will be considered by the Governance and Audit Committee;
- The Governance and Audit Committee will be responsible for monitoring the adequacy of the governance arrangements, including risk management processes, to ensure that the Council is complying with its statutory and regulatory obligations;
- On an annual basis the Governance and Audit Committee will review and approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The AGS is an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements during the previous financial year which includes review of risk management arrangements as an integral part of good governance;
- The Governance and Audit Committee will review and provide feedback on the Strategic Risk Register twice a year;
- The Governance and Audit Committee will receive updates on risk management arrangements prepared by the Head of Audit and Risk Management twice a year;
- The Governance and Audit Committee will seek assurance that officers are developing and progressing Action Plans to address risks;
- Members will be expected to attend any appropriate training to ensure they have sufficient knowledge of risk management to perform their role on the Governance and Audit Committee.

## Chief Executive

The Chief Executive takes overall responsibility for risk management as head of paid service.

## Director: Resources

- Acts as the Lead Officer for risk management;
- Chairs the Strategic Risk Management Group;
- Provides assurance to the Governance and Audit Committee on the adequacy of risk management arrangements
- Ensures there is adequate staff resource in place to maintain the Strategic Risk Register and provide central risk management support and advice;
- Promotes the application of risk management to CMT; and
- Ensure that a programme of training for officers is developed to facilitate the embedding of risk management throughout the organisation.

## Corporate Management Team (CMT)

- The Risk Management Strategy and Guidance incorporating the Risk Management Policy will be reviewed periodically by CMT;
- Risk management arrangements and initiatives proposed by the Head of Audit and Risk Management will be considered by and agreed with CMT;
- Has ownership of the Strategic Risk Register
- CMT will ensure that significant risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives, as set out in the Strategic Themes, are recorded in a Council wide Strategic Risk Register, that each risk is assigned one or more risk owners and that CMT has collective ownership for the Register.
- CMT will review the Strategic Risk Register at least twice a year;

- CMT will seek assurance that strategic and directorate operational risks and actions to mitigate risk are identified and documented;
- Adequacy and progress of actions to address strategic risks will be overseen by CMT and recommendations made to relevant Directors where appropriate to address gaps in assurance;
- CMT will recommend any risk management issues to be reported to the Governance and Audit Committee; and
- CMT members will be expected to attend any appropriate training to ensure they have adequate knowledge to perform their various roles

## Directors/Assistant Directors

- All Directors will promote risk management in their Departments and ensure that risks are properly assessed and managed at all levels in all their services;
- Each Director will ensure that there are adequate actions in place to mitigate strategic risks for which they are the risk owner;
- Directors will ensure that their directorates risk register is a complete and up to date record of all significant risks within their directorate consistent with the scoring methodology in the Toolkit, that appropriate actions are identified to address these risks and that the register is reviewed quarterly by their Departmental Management Team (DMT), updated to address changes in risks and progress in actions and copied to the Head of Audit and Risk Management;
- Each Director will ensure that risk management is considered in any partnerships, shared service arrangements and significant contracts so that risks are



understood and the responsibility for each risk is clear;

- Each Director will ensure that his/her representative on the Strategic Risk Management Group is at the appropriate level (i.e. an officer who sits on the directorate's DMT) and that they contribute actively to the Group's activities and within the Department on all risk management issues;
- Directors will ensure that reports for decision making include an assessment of risk; and
- Risk management performance will be reflected in the appraisal process.
- Each director will be trained and be an active member of the Council's Emergency Management Team (EMT) in order to effectively respond to an emergency situation or business disruption
- Directors will ensure the Corporate Health and Safety Policy and any guidance/procedures are implemented and managed effectively within their areas of responsibility

### Strategic Risk Management Group (SRMG)

- The SRMG acts as a "Strategic Risk Board," taking the lead in updating the Strategy, reviewing the Strategic Risk Register and reporting to CMT and Members on progress on risk management;
- SRMG will oversee aspects of risk affecting the Council including but not limited to the Strategic Risk Register and Health and Safety.
- The SRMG will seek to research good practice in risk management and to adopt appropriate good practice in the Council;
- SRMG members must act as the risk management champions in their own Departments and raise awareness of risk management;
- Terms of reference for SRMG are attached at Appendix 1.

### Head of Audit and Risk Management

- The Head of Audit and Risk Management has a key role in ensuring that the Strategic Risk Register is up to date/comprehensive and that actions are being taken to address strategic risks;
- The Head of Audit and Risk Management also plays an important part in ensuring Departments have processes in place to identify and address significant operational and project risks;
- The Head of Audit and Risk Management will provide assurance on the risk management process and highlight necessary improvements;
- The risk management arrangements will be reviewed as required under the Internal Audit Plan;
- Internal Audit Plans must be risk-based, with strategic risks being prioritised when reviewing systems;
- Internal Audit reports must identify the perceived risks clearly and make SMART recommendations for mitigating or eliminating those risks.

### Emergency Planning Function:-

- To update and maintain the Council's Civil Emergency Plan and to provide the framework and coordinating role to its Business Continuity planning process to ensure the Council is able to respond at corporate level in the event of an emergency or critical incident;
- To report to SRMG quarterly on business continuity strategies, plans and procedures to ensure the organisation can respond to a business critical incident;
- To ensure coordination and training across all departments of

the Council to ensure the ability to implement plans;

- To ensure adequate liaison with all other appropriate agencies and neighbouring authorities in respect of their emergency response plans and the interaction with this Council; and
- To facilitate periodic training and testing of the plans.

## Corporate Health and Safety Manager

- To advise and assist line managers throughout the Council's operation on matters relating to their duties and obligations under the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and related legislation;
- To liaise with managers in investigating accidents and in carrying out risk analysis and safety audits and to produce reports as required;
- To provide a lead role in the production and maintenance of the Council's safety policy;
- To develop and implement action plans to reduce health and safety risks identified by risk assessments and inspections; and
- To report to SRMG on a six monthly basis on health and safety inspection visits and incidents reported and investigated.

## The Assistant Director: Customer Experience, Digital and ICT

- The Assistant Director: Customer Experience, Digital and ICT advises CMT and SRMG on the risks associated with information technology and information security.

## Insurance Manager

- To provide advice and guidance with regard to insurance requirements, indemnities and

liabilities and ensure adequate insurance is put in place

- To work with the Council's insurer and provide claims management and investigation services for claims made by and against the Council under its insurance policies.
- To manage the day to day use of the internal insurance fund for payment of self-insured losses

## Legal Services

- To support officers in ensuring the Council meets its legal responsibilities by advising on statutory obligations;
- To provide legal advice on potential liabilities; and
- To advise on legal responsibilities connected with collaborative arrangements such as contracted out services and partnership agreements.

## Public Health Team

- To promote health awareness and preventative measures to minimise the risk and impact of illness;
- To work with the Emergency Planning function in responding to consequences arising from public health emergencies such as infectious diseases, mass casualties or disruption to medical supplies.
- To provide advice and intelligence to the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who commission local NHS services to meet local health needs.

## Heads of Service/Cost Centre Managers/Project Managers

- These managers are the experts on their services and projects and they must make regular and thorough risk assessments to identify significant strategic risks and mitigation where appropriate;

- Significant risks must be included in Directorate Risk Registers, Project Risk Logs and in any key decision report, report requesting budget provision or proposing savings, changes to service levels etc.
- Risks must be monitored regularly and significant new or changed risks recorded ;
- Any potential risk impacts should be should be considered on matters discussed at team meetings and where significant should be escalated to the relevant DMT.
- Project teams should consider risk management at most, if not all, of their Project Board meetings;
- Managers will ensure that risk management is considered in any partnerships, shared service or contractual arrangements so that risks are understood and the responsibility for each risk is clear;
- Managers will be expected to attend any appropriate training to ensure they have adequate knowledge to perform their role; and
- Risk management will be included in behaviour frameworks.

- 

## All Staff

- Staff will carry out risk assessments as appropriate;
- Draw to management's attention any risks to the achievement of day-to-day objectives that have not been identified previously so that these can be recorded and action take to mitigate them where required;
- Will be expected to attend any appropriate training to ensure they have adequate knowledge to perform their role; and
- Risk management will be reflected in behaviour frameworks

## Partners, Shared Service Providers and Contractors

The Council expects third parties upon which it relies (including contractors, partners, shared service providers, associates and commissioned independents) to

- work safely, comply with all relevant health and safety legislation and have in place appropriate sources of health and safety advice and training; and
- Provide and evidence all Business Continuity procedures that relate to services provided and additional support that has been agreed

# STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

## 1. Object and Functions

The Strategic Risk Management Group shall make recommendations to CMT, the Governance and Audit Committee or any other committee of the Council on matters affecting or likely to affect the organisation's exposure to significant risk. The Strategic Risk Management Group shall:

- I. Be responsible for risk assessment matters that relate to Bracknell Forest Council's services, programmes, projects and/or to employees and all other people who may be affected by the Council's activities;
- II. Receive reports in respect of Health and Safety incidents and practices.
- III. Receive and review updates of the Strategic Risk Register and receive periodic reports on risk areas included within the Risk Register from responsible officers;
- IV. Monitor the effectiveness of risk management policies, procedures and practices across the Council, ensuring that pro-active risk management becomes embedded across the Council; and
- V. Report quarterly to the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

## 2. Membership

The membership of the Strategic Risk Management Group shall be determined by CMT and shall include

- I. Representatives from each Directorate;
- II. The Principal Health and Safety Advisor; and
- III. The Head of Audit and Risk Management.
- IV. Link to business continuity
- V. Link to Information Management Group

Representatives for information management and business continuity/emergency planning will not be required for every meeting but only at one meeting per year at which point a deep dive would be necessary.

It is crucial to ensure that there is representation from ICT as this is vital to services.

## 3. Chairman

The Group shall be chaired by the Director:Resources.

## 4. Meetings

The Group shall meet at least four times a year but a special meeting may be called if 24 hours notice is given in the case of emergency. All meetings shall be convened during normal working hours. Additional meetings shall be arranged if necessary as agreed by the Chairman.

For those unable to attend a pro-actively briefed deputy is required.

## 5. Agendas

- I. All items should be submitted to the Secretary of the Group at least five working days before the meeting for inclusion on the agenda.
- II. Each Member of the Group shall receive a copy of the agenda and papers at least three working days before the meeting.

## 6. Reporting

- I. Minutes of the meetings of the Group shall be documented as soon as possible after the meeting.
- II. Copies of minutes shall be circulated to all members of the Group and CMT.
- III. The Director:Resources will ensure that the Strategic Risk Register considered by SRMG is reviewed by CMT at least twice a year.
- IV. The Director: Resources will ensure that regular updates on risk management are provided to the Governance and Audit Committee.