

Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation & Business Operations

Cabinet – 17 August 2017

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose:	To agree and adopt the Council's revised Risk Management Policy
Policy Framework:	Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Code of Corporate Governance.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance, Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Cabinet adopts the revised Risk Management Policy.
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report presents the Council's revised Risk Management Policy for adoption by Council. The revised Risk Management Policy is attached at Appendix A and is supported by the revised Risk Management Framework attached at Appendix B.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Risk Management Policy sets out the principles for managing and communicating risk, ensuring that risk is embedded and effectively managed throughout the Council.

2.2 The Risk Management Policy will govern how the Council manages risks to achieving its priorities and objectives, risks arising from service delivery, risks to corporate and financial health and governance and the longer-term risks facing the Council and the community.

3.0 Overview of the Risk Management Policy

3.1 The Risk management Policy sets out:

- 1) *Risk Management Statement* – setting out the Council’s overall approach to risk management.
- 2) *What is Risk Management* – outlining the definition of risk management used in the Policy.
- 3) *Aims of Risk Management* – describing what the Council aims to achieve through the Risk Management Policy.
- 4) *Risk Levels* – the different levels of risk managed through the Policy: Corporate, Directorate, Service, Project / Programme and Information Risks.
- 5) *Roles & Responsibilities* – setting out the different roles and responsibilities for officers and Members to manage risk in the Council.
- 6) *Risk Management Cycle* – the process for managing risk in the Council through the Policy.
- 7) *Risk Escalation* – guidelines for escalating risk for control and mitigation.
- 8) *Risk Management Communication* – the approach to embed risk management into the Council’s organisational culture and governance.
- 9) *Risk Management Framework* – supporting the application of the Risk Management Policy in the Council.

4.0 Equality & Engagement Implications

4.1 The screening of this policy and framework has not identified any direct impacts from the policy on groups with protected characteristics, children and young people or the Welsh language and so has not been deemed relevant for an EIA. The EIA screening is attached as Appendix C.

4.2 However, the individual risks that are identified, evaluated and controlled by services with reference to this policy and framework could have a significant impact. In light of this, the implementation plan for this policy and framework includes a plan for communications and staff / Member training. This is to ensure that all staff and elected members receive training relevant to them so that they are able to implement the policy effectively and control risk to mitigate any effects on citizens, including any impacts on groups with protected characteristics. Elected

representatives (Cabinet) will also jointly own risks with CMT, Directors and Heads of Service where they can help control the risk.

4.3 Audit Committee, as part of its statutory role to assure the effectiveness of the risk management policy and framework and its operation within the Council, will receive a quarterly report on the overall status of risk management within the Council to ensure that it is working effectively.

4.4 Finally, there is scope within the policy through the incorporation into the policy of the 'involvement' principle of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, for responsible officers / risk owners to involve citizens in identifying, evaluating and controlling risks where that is deemed relevant and appropriate by them.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications. The Policy sets out the need to categorise financial risks that may have an adverse impact on or result from the Council's financial budgeting, planning, control and resilience.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no direct legal implications. The Policy seeks to embed the Sustainability Principle in the management of risk outlined within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and statutory guidance, including the need to consider long-term strategic risks to the Council and community.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A – Draft Risk Management Policy.
Appendix B – Draft Risk Management Framework.
Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form.