



Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Governance & Audit Committee – 10 April 2024

Risk Management Policy and Framework

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| Purpose: | The report presents the Councils draft revised Risk Management Policy and Framework |
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For Information

1. Background

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

2. Risk Management Policy and Framework

- 2.1 Through the Risk Management Policy, the Council aims to be an exemplar of good practice and continue to meet its statutory responsibility to have in place satisfactory arrangements for managing risks, as laid out under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to frame what risks they may be subject to in the short, medium and long term, together with the steps the public body will take to ensure they are well managed. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 emphasises the importance of risk-aware governance through continuous performance review and self-assessment.
- 2.2 The Risk Management Policy establishes the principles to guide decision making within risk management in the Council. The Risk

Management Framework, which accompanies this Policy, aims to help managers and Members at all levels apply risk management principles consistently across their areas of responsibilities.

2.3 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.
- 5) *Roles & Responsibilities* – setting out the different roles and responsibilities for officers and Members within risk management in the Council.
- 6) *Risk Management Cycle* – the process for managing risk in the Council.
- 7) *Risk Escalation / De-escalation* – guidelines for escalating or de-escalating risks for control and mitigation.
- 8) *Risk Management Communication* – the approach to embed risk management into the Council’s organisational culture and governance.
- 9) *Issues* – the process for resolving risk issues.
- 10) *Risk Management Framework* – supporting the application of the Risk Management Policy in the Council.

2.4 Subject to circumstances, it is planned that that the revised risk management policy and framework will be implemented in quarter 2 of 2024/25 using a phased approach.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

3.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

3.1.3 An IIA Screening was undertaken. This report sets out a revised policy and framework for managing risks in the Council and does not directly impact on communities or on people with protected characteristics.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

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| Appendix A | Risk Management Policy |
| Appendix B | Risk Management Framework |
| Appendix C | IIA Screening Form |