

## Report of the Head of Financial Services & Service Centre

Special Audit Committee – 11 July 2017

### RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose: The report presents the draft Risk Management Policy

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#### FOR INFORMATION

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's revised Risk Management Policy. The revised Risk Management Policy is attached at Appendix A and is supported by the revised Risk Management Framework attached at Appendix B.
- 1.2 The Risk Management Policy sets out the principles for managing and communicating risk, ensuring that risk management is embedded and effectively managed throughout the Council.
- 1.3 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.

#### 2. Overview of the Risk Management Policy

- 2.1 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.

### **3. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.

**4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications.

**5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications.

**FOR INFORMATION**

**Background papers:** *None*

**Appendices:** Appendix A – Risk Management Policy; Appendix B – Risk Management Framework.