

Title of meeting: Governance and Audit and Standards Committee

Date of meeting: 20th November 2020

Subject: Risk and assurance management policy

Report by: Kelly Nash, Corporate Performance Manager

Wards affected: n/a

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The report presents the council's risk and assurance management policy to the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee for approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Governance and Audit and Standards Committee is asked to:

- 1) Approve the attached Risk and Assurance Management Policy
- 2) Agree to review the risk management policy in November 2022, including risks current at the time and lessons learnt over the previous year.

3. Background

3.1 The Council is committed to embedding a culture of risk awareness within our everyday activities such that formal processes and unnecessary documentation can be minimised but that risk management remains an effective part of the governance framework.

3.2 The attached Risk and Assurance Management policy sets out how this will be achieved. Significant features of the policy are:

- Roles and responsibilities are set out clearly
- Components of process, such as training and monitoring are clearly described.

3.3 Whilst it is accepted that risk cannot be entirely eradicated, the following are areas on which the council will not compromise its position by taking a greater level of risk than is absolutely necessary. It will also take all reasonable steps to eliminate or mitigate the risks where identified, including but not limited to:

- where there is risk of physical harm

- where non-compliance with legislation could lead to imprisonment or significant fines.

3.4 The Corporate Risk Directory is usually considered by the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee on a quarterly basis as part of the regular performance monitoring from the organisation. This monitoring has been suspended as the organisation has focused on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, but it is expected that this reporting will resume in early 2021. The reduction in usual corporate monitoring has been noted as an exposure in the Annual Governance Statement for the year.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 The policy has been in effect since 2013, and has been regularly reviewed to ensure that it is in line with the current structure. For this review, references to outdated practices (such as staff completing risk forms) have been removed, and recommendations from a previous Internal Audit piece of work have been incorporated (including clarifying the learning and development expectation).

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not directly impact on service or policy delivery. Any changes made arising from this report would be subject to investigation in their own right.

6. Legal implications

6.1 Legal considerations have been taken into account in the preparation of this report and where appropriate embodied within it.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

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Signed by: Paddy May, Corporate Performance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Risk and Assurance Management policy

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: