

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 December 2024
Subject:	Risk Management Policy Statement and Strategy		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Resources		
Wards Affected:	Not applicable		
Key Decision:	No	Budget or Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Risk Management Policy Statement and Strategy		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider the updated Risk Management Policy Statement and Strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) the Risk Management Policy Statement and Strategy be adopted and endorsed;
- (2) following endorsement, the Strategy be disseminated to Members and officers in accordance with a communications plan to reaffirm the Council's risk management objectives.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 'Risk management is the culture, process and structures that are directed towards effective management of potential opportunities and threats to the Council achieving its priorities and objectives' – ALARM, the public risk management association.
- 3.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (part 2 paragraph 3) state a relevant Council 'must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which...includes effective arrangements for the management of risk'.
- 3.3 Risk management is a key part of the Council's corporate governance framework and internal control environment. It is one of the seven core principles within the Council's Code of Corporate Governance – 'managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management'.
- 3.4 The Council recognises the importance of effective risk management. That it is essential for good governance and sound internal control within a public body. Also,

its positive contribution to the delivery of successful strategic and service level outcomes.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 There are no social value implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 There are no environmental implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 No other options have been considered.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 In addition to the statutory requirements and codes of good practice as noted within paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, the council has responded to the above by incorporating these requirements into the Council Constitution, specifically within Part 3 which defines the members/officers responsibilities in relation to risk management and also within Financial Regulations - Audit and the Control of Resources.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 An embedded risk management approach helps to support the challenges that the council may face, allowing it to react dynamically to changing external circumstances by enabling the council to handle risk effectively and deliver successful outcomes.

8.2 The important of ensuring dissemination of requirements to Members and officers through the City intranet and other agreed approaches (all staff communications etc).

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report recommendations.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report).

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 None specifically arising from the report recommendations.

- 10.2 It is fundamental that the Council has an embedded risk management framework (including a Risk Management Strategy). The framework should consider the identification, recording and management of risks to the Council in the delivery of its priorities and objectives.
- 10.3 The existence and application of an effective Risk Management Strategy assists prudent decision making. Failure to identify and manage strategic risks could lead to inappropriate decision making, unnecessary liability and costly legal challenge.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report).

11.0 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 Failure to deliver on effective risk management, particularly during periods of significant change, may have a negative effect. This may impact the achievement of potential opportunities and adversely affect the assets, reputation and objectives of the council, strategic decision making and the wellbeing of our stakeholders.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact. A full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 There are no Community Safety implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

14.0 Staffing and Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 There are no Staffing and Trade Union implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

Background Documents: [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#)
CIPFA and Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016 Edition
[Council's Constitution](#)
[Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017](#)