

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Maxine O'Mahony, Executive Director - Strategy & Governance Executive

To: Governance and Audit Committee, 11th February 2021
Full Council, 25th February

Author: Ryan Pack- Innovation and Change Business Partner

Subject: Risk Management Policy

Purpose: To present the Council's risk management policy for review

Recommendation(s):

- 1) The council agree to the amendment of item 19 in the draft risk policy to allow for a further review in six months.
- 2) That the council agree to the adoption of the draft Risk Management Policy

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Breckland Council currently adheres to a risk management framework in order to manage and mitigate against risks at all levels of the organisation. This policy now needs to be renewed by both Governance and Audit Committee and full council. As stated in the policy itself, once renewed this policy runs for 18 months.
- 1.2 The current policy is recognised by the council's external audit team as current best practice example for the rest of the audit consortium. The Governance and Audit committee also had significant input in shaping the current policy.
- 1.3 The council is currently in the process of recruiting to a temporary post performance framework manager, to identify, enhance and implement a new framework across the council. At the time of writing the council have been unsuccessful in recruiting to this post.
- 1.4 If a decision was made to formally review the Risk Management Policy for a further 18 months, this would limit the scope of the performance framework managers role and may result in them either being unable to make alterations to the risk policy or having to bring an entirely new risk management policy for approval.
- 1.5 It is therefore proposed, the policy is reviewed again in September 2020 to allow for this work to be completed. This will allow for the council to be properly engaged with and for the performance framework manager to fully scrutinise and make recommendations regarding risk management.
- 1.6 During this period between February and September, risk management would therefore continue as normal, with Governance and Audit still receiving both verbal and written update on the council's strategic risks, in line with the agreed reporting style.
- 1.7 To allow for this, item 19 of the risk policy has been altered to now allow for a review every 18 months or sooner if appropriate. Previously the policy had only stated that a review

needed to happen every 18 months.

- 1.8 This policy was seen by the Governance and Audit Committee in February and was agreed that the policy could be renewed with a further review in September.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 That the council to agree to recommendations 1 and 2 to renew the policy, with a further review in six months.
- 2.2 Do nothing.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 This report is seeking for the Governance and Audit Committee to review the risk management policy and make a recommendation to full council that it be adopted. A short extension of the policy will allow for both the committee and performance framework manager to be properly engaged in the renewal process.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1 By formal adopting the current working practices relating to how the Council approaches risk management it will ensure that there is a robust framework to work within. This framework will provide assurance that risks are appropriately managed but do not inhibit innovation)

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Data Protection; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

- 5.1.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no carbon footprint or environmental implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

- 5.2.1 The constitution sets out the legal requirement for the Council to have a formal approach to how it manages risk. The constitution delegates power to the Governance and Audit Committee to monitor strategic risks.

5.3 **Contracts**

- 5.3.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct contract implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

- 5.4.1 A robust yet flexible approach to risk management is fundamental to enabling the Council achieving its corporate priorities as set out in the Council's corporate plan

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

- 5.5.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct crime and disorder implications.

5.6 Data Protection

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct data protection implications

5.7 Equality and Diversity / Human Rights

5.7.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct equality or human rights implications.

5.8 Financial

5.8.1 The risk management policy will influence how the Council manages its financial requirements in an appropriate way.

5.9 Reputation

5.10.1 The risk management policy helps identify potential impacts on the Council's reputation and helps to mitigate these by the adoption of controls to reduce or prevent their impact.

5.10 Risk Management

5.11.1 The risk management policy sets out the approach to how the Council manages risk throughout all aspects of its business.

5.11 Safeguarding

5.13.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct safeguarding implications as a result of this report.

5.12 Staffing

5.14.1 This report contains information on strategic risks relevant to the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

5.13 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

5.15.1 It is the opinion of the author that there are no direct implications arising from this report.

6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

6.1 N/A

7.0 ACRONYMS

7.1 N/A

Background papers:-

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A Breckland Council Risk management policy