

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Maxine O'Mahony - Executive Director, Strategy and Resources

To: Governance and Audit Committee- Thursday 30th September 2021
Council- Thursday 14th October

Author: Ryan Pack- Innovation and Change Business Partner

Subject: Risk Management Policy and Appetite Statement

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

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the Governance and Audit Committee recommend the adoption of the draft Risk Management Policy to full council on 14th October.
- 2) That full council agrees 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 a 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 An extension was granted to the policy in February 2021, to allow for officers to conduct a more thorough review of the policy.
- 1.4 The changes made to the policy mainly include the changing of language as a result of the stand-alone management structure and the inclusion of formal definitions for the organisation to adopt in relation to risk management.
- 1.5 Other changes include the formalisation of practices which the council has previously done such as formalising the risk report structure, as this has changed over time since the policy was last agreed.
- 1.6 There have been no changes to the reporting frequency, risk management approach or to the current risk matrix structure.
- 1.7 Furthermore, appendix B relates to the adoption of a risk appetite statement by the council. This statement dictates the council's response to specific risks whereas the framework dictates the approach to risk management.
- 1.8 Assuming that the Governance and Audit Committee is content with the extension of the current policy, this report seeks for them to make a recommendation to full council to adopt policy extension.

2.0 OPTIONS

2.1 Governance and Audit Committee to review the risk management policy and risk appetite statement and to agree to the changes to allow for a recommendation to full council to adopt the new policy and appetite statement.

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

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

5.12 Staffing

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

5.13 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales

5.13.1 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

Appendix B Breckland Risk appetite statement