

Report title: Risk Management Strategy	
Report to: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	
Report author: Paula Clowes, Head of Assurance	
Date: 21 March 2022	For: Approval
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County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Everyone's Essex

- 1.1 The Audit Governance and Standards Committee has a role to maintain oversight and to monitor the effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements.
- 1.2 Effective risk management is a key component of good Corporate Governance and as such the Council is required to have effective arrangements in place for the management of Risk. The foundation of our arrangements for risk management is the Risk Management Strategy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Risk Management Strategy 2022/23 be approved in the form appended to the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's current Risk Management Strategy was approved by Audit Governance and Standards Committee in January 2020. It has now been reviewed and updated in line with our annual review process.
- 3.2 The refreshed Risk Management Strategy is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.3 The following changes have been made as part of the annual review for 2022:
 - Date change 9 (front page)
 - Removed reference to Organisation Strategy as we now have Everyone's Essex.

4. Links to our Strategic Ambitions

4.1 A strategic approach to risk management is critical in ensuring that the Council successfully mitigates its risks in all areas of work to ensure vital services continue to be delivered and available resources reach those most in need and the council remains resilient. This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision.

- Enjoy life into old age
- Provide an equal foundation for every child
- Strengthen communities through participation
- Develop our County sustainably
- Connect us to each other and the world
- Share prosperity with everyone

4.2 This report links to the following strategic priorities in the emerging Organisational Strategy 'Everyone's Essex':

- A strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
- A high quality environment
- Health wellbeing and independence for all ages
- A good place for children and families to grow

5. Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications as the risk management activity will be met within existing resources.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to have a sound system of internal control which includes a requirement to have adequate arrangements for the management of risk. The strategy sets out our arrangements and is thus a key way of complying with those regulations.

7. Equality and Diversity Considerations

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

- 7.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 7.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that this strategy will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

8 List of Appendices

Appendix A - Risk Management Strategy 2022

9 List of Background papers

None