

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Review of the Council's Risk Management Strategy

Meeting/Date: Cabinet – 14th November 2023
Council - 13th December 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Report by: Director of Finance & Corporate Resources

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

As part of its Governance Strategy, the Council requires a Risk Management Strategy that details how it manages risks associated with the organisation. The attached document details the proposed Risk Strategy and how it fits with the Council's governance and risk reporting.

Recommendation(s):

The Council is

RECOMMENDED TO

Approve the Risk Management Strategy.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Council's proposed Risk Management Strategy for consideration and comment by Committee.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY

- 2.1 Good governance requires the Council to identify and mitigate risks that are likely to impact its effective operation and delivery of duties. The Risk Management Strategy details how the Council will do this.

3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 3.1 The Panel discussed the Review of the Council's Risk Management Strategy at its meeting on 1st November 2023.
- 3.2 Following a question from Councillor Jennings, the Panel heard that there is a clearly defined risk appetite across all risks facing the Council, clarifying and simplifying the approach in the previous strategy which broke this down by cross cutting function, and falling in line with partners. The Panel were also advised that the original strategy would be shared via email to help highlight the adjustments in the updated strategy.
- 3.3 The names of the key officers who make up the Assurance Board were advised to the Panel, in response to a question from Councillor Harvey, with further details of the Board to be circulated following the meeting.
- 3.4 Councillor Martin observed that the risks highlighted within the Risk Management report did not appear to marry with the risks mentioned within reports which are presented to the Panel. The Panel were advised that all reports brought to the Panel should highlight the risks, however there may have been discrepancies whilst the strategy was being updated, this would be rectified moving forward.
- 3.5 Councillor Gleadow praised an excellent report but expressed concern over the seniority of the ownership of risks. The Panel were assured that whilst some risks are more appropriately managed at a strategic level, there is also accountability across all risk by senior managers.
- 3.6 Following a further concern raised by Councillor Martin on the difficulty to recruit into the 3C Shared Services Legal Team, the Panel heard that this was a national issue, however would be managed through the use of locums as necessary.
- 3.7 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- a. There are no specific resource implications.

6. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

The Council needs a Risk Management Strategy to inform its assessment of risk and behaviours to mitigate adverse exposures.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Risk Management Strategy 2023

APPENDIX B – Risk Register

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