

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
(Report by the Audit & Risk Manager)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report details the outcome of the annual review of the Strategy (Annex A).
- 1.2 The Council has robust risk management processes in place that are generally performing well and supportive of annual governance and statutory reporting processes.

2. RISK STRATEGY

- 2.1 The current strategy includes the following statement regarding the responsibilities for health and safety.

Health & Safety Advisor & Co-ordinators

To review the health and safety risks identified by managers and consider if the controls recorded in the register are sufficient to mitigate the risk to the level stated.

To assist managers by monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the control environment recorded in the risk register.

To review accident reports and health and safety records and recommend improvements to procedures.

- 2.2 The Corporate Health & Safety Advisor has reviewed many of the health and safety practices and recommended a number of changes to current procedures to the Safety Advisory Group. These have been reflected in the 'Health and Safety Policy – Organisation & Responsibilities' (Policy) document,
- 2.3 The Policy makes it clear that the identification and management of risk is the responsibility of all – both Elected Members and employees. It is therefore proposed that rather than attempt to summarise the key messages from the Health and Safety Policy in the Strategy, the wording noted in paragraph 2.1 above be replaced with the following statement, within the Roles and Responsibilities section of the Strategy.

Health & Safety

All Elected Members and employees are responsible for taking care of their own and their colleagues/visitors health and safety at all times. They are responsible for the identification and treatment of hazards as described in the Health and Safety Policy – Organisation & Responsibilities.

Risk Appetite

- 2.4 COMT are also required to review and consider the Council's risk appetite each year. The risk appetite is the amount and type of risk that the Council is prepared to seek, accept or tolerate.
- 2.5 That review has been completed and no change is proposed to either the general or the health & safety risk appetite.

General risk appetite = High

Whilst no formal illustrative descriptor has been written, a high risk appetite should be 'read' as the Council's desire that it should *be able to take calculated risks to seize opportunities (innovation) in delivering its Themes and Aims.*

("Very high" risks, those exceeding the risk appetite, have to be reported to Cabinet to ensure they are content with the level of residual risk or action plans developed to reduce the risk).

Health & Safety risk appetite = Low

A low risk appetite should be 'read' as the Council's desire that it should *have low degree of residual risk and a preference for safe service delivery options that only contain the potential for limited reward.*

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Panel:
- i. Note the changes to the responsibilities for health & safety in the risk management strategy
 - ii. Note that COMT have reviewed the risk appetite and no changes are required; and
 - iii. Approve the attached Risk Management Strategy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None

Contact Officer: David Harwood, Audit & Risk Manager 📞 **01480 388115**