

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND RISK REGISTER

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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

Risk Management will strengthen the ability of the Council to achieve its corporate objectives and priorities and enhance the value of services provided.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO FULL COUNCIL?

The Risk Management Strategy has recently been refreshed in line with best practice and our overall approach to performance management as set out within the Council's Performance Management Framework.

The Strategy and Strategic Risk Register is being reported to Full Council for information to ensure all Members are aware of the Strategy and the Council's approach to strategic risk management.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Council note the report which includes the Risk Management Strategy and Strategic Risk Register.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Risk Management Audit carried out in 12/13 recommended that the Risk Management Strategy (previously approved in 2006) should be refreshed in line with current reporting practice set out in the Performance Management Framework and then reported to the Audit and Governance Committee and the Executive.

1.2 Both corporate governance and risk management has become increasingly important in ensuring robust and effective service delivery for local authorities. The revised Strategy (attached as Appendix A) outlines how the Council is taking on its responsibility to manage both risks and opportunities using a structured and focused approach.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT

2.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to have in place arrangements for managing risks. Risk Management covers the whole spectrum of risks and not just those associated with finance, health & safety and insurance. It also includes risks associated with service provision, business continuity; and compliance with legislation and regulation.

2.1 Risk Management strengthens the ability of the Council to achieve its corporate objectives and priorities in a time of maximum uncertainty. It provides a strategic tool for use in planning and decision making. The findings of the recent internal Risk Management Audit recommended that the Risk Management Strategy should be updated to reflect the current revised reporting practices in the Performance Management Framework and training delivered to both Managers and Members.

2.2 The main changes to the strategy are:

- It is a shorter and more concise document making it easier for the reader to understand how the Council manages risks
- The risk management cycle has been updated in line with the recent Zurich training and best practice
- The document incorporates the revised reporting practices as set out in the Performance Management Framework
- A new section “Risk in Partnership” has been added to reflect the Council’s vision and operating model as set out in the Council Plan 2013 -15
- The roles and responsibilities have been simplified so that Members and staff are clear about their duties.
- Risk Prioritisation Matrix has been added to the Appendix.

2.3 As well as revising the Risk Management Strategy and Policy, the Strategic Risk Register (attached as Appendix B) was updated during a Corporate Risk Review Workshop carried out in July 2012 in which Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) had the opportunity to update the Strategic Risk Register to reflect current circumstances. The Strategic Risk Register is reviewed monthly by CLT and reported quarterly to the Audit and Governance Committee.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The revised Risk Management Strategy sets out our process for identifying, assessing and managing risks. Our approach to strategic risk management forms an integral part of our Performance Management Framework and governance arrangements.

4. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

- 4.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: Report sets out a robust and proportionate approach to risk management in line with recommended practice.
- 4.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: With increasing uncertainty on our funding and resource levels arising from the CSR 10 and now CSR13, alongside national policy changes, the identification and management of our strategic risks is vital for the council. The risk management strategy and register provides a robust process for us to identifies the strategic risks and devise appropriate responses
- 4.3 EIA Comments: No specific comments.
- 4.4 Policy Framework Comments: The Risk Management Strategy is a key tool in managing the overall policy framework and delivering the Corporate Plan 2013 – 15.
- 4.5 Other consultee comments, if any: N/A.

5. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

- 5.1 The Risk Management Strategy sets out how the Council will manage risks. The Strategic Risk Register which contains the Council's key risks. The Strategic Risk Register is monitored monthly by Corporate Leadership Team and reported to the Audit and Governance Committee quarterly.

6. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

- 6.1 The report results in a clear strategy for managing risks and forms part of the Performance Management Framework.

List of Appendices

- Appendix A - Risk Management Strategy
- Appendix B – Strategic Risk Register