

Framework Required to Ensure Effective Risk Management

Minimum Requirements

- A risk management strategy /policy has been adopted and approved by Members
- The risk management strategy/policy requires the Council to;
 - identify corporate and operational risks
 - assess the risks for likelihood and impact
 - identify mitigating controls
 - allocate responsibility for mitigating controls
- The Council maintains and reviews a register of its corporate business risks linking them to strategic business objectives and assigning ownership for each risk including risks arising from partnerships and other joint working arrangements
- The corporate risk register should be supported by a series of department/service risk registers that identify and assign the lower level operational risks
- A Member committee has specific responsibility included in its terms of reference to consider corporate risk management including a link between this function and the Councils arrangements for reviewing internal control
- Reports to support strategic policy decisions, and project initiation documents, include a risk assessment and the identification of mitigating action

Additional Attributes Required to Obtain Best Practice

- A risk management process that is reviewed and updated at least annually
- Provision of risk management awareness training for those Members with specific responsibility for risk management and ultimately for all Members
- Relevant training and guidance for all appropriate staff to enable them to take responsibility for managing risk within their own working environment
- Regular risk management reporting to the responsible Member committee, which takes appropriate action to ensure that corporate business risks are being actively managed, including reporting to full council as appropriate
- A senior officer champions and takes overall responsibility for embedding risk management throughout the organisation.
- Consideration by the organisation of positive risks (opportunities) as well as negative risks (threats)