

## RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

<b>Cabinet Member &amp; Portfolio</b>	Cllr Martin Goddard, Cabinet Member for Finance & Transformation
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Richard Ennis, Director of Finance
<b>Report Author &amp; Directorate</b>	Claire Baker, Head of Internal Audit & Risk Assurance, Finance Directorate
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A: Risk Management Policy

### HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	This report seeks approval from the Cabinet to adopt and implement the updated Risk Management Policy.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>  <b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</b>	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents  This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Digital-Enabled, Modern, Well-Run Council
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no additional direct financial implications arising from the recommendation's contained within this report.
<b>Select Committee</b>	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure Select Committee
<b>Ward(s)</b>	N/A

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Cabinet approves the updated Risk Management Policy attached in Appendix A for implementation.**

#### **Reasons for recommendation(s)**

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Hillingdon Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for managing risks, and risk management is embedded into the culture of the organisation. This Risk Management Policy provides a framework for managing risks and clearly defined roles and responsibilities for both members and officers.

## **Alternative options considered / risk management**

An alternative would be for the Council not to implement the Risk Management Policy. However, this would have a negative impact as the Council would not be following CIPFA best practice or legislative requirements.

## **Democratic compliance / previous authority**

As per the Council's Constitution, Cabinet sets the strategy/policy in relation to risk management across the organisation. In addition to Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Team and service areas monitoring risks regularly, it is also the role of the Audit Committee for assurance purposes to monitor and review the Council's risk management arrangements, including regularly reviewing the corporate risk register which they undertake quarterly.

## **Select Committee comments**

None at this stage.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The Risk Management Policy outlines the Council's framework for the systematic identification, evaluation and mitigation of potential threats to the Council and Council services. This includes assessing the likelihood and impact of any potential risks, identifying actions to mitigate against the risk, and monitoring the effectiveness of these measures. The management of risk is a core element of corporate governance to ensure the Council's services are delivered to the expected standards, and key objectives are achieved.

The Risk Management Policy included in Appendix A has been updated to reflect the Risk Management System implemented during 2024, and to remove outdated references that are no longer applicable. However, the core content and risk management framework remains consistent with the previous version.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no additional, direct financial implications linked to the Risk Management Policy.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION**

### **The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?**

The management of risk is a core element of corporate governance and helps ensure the Council's services continue to be delivered for the benefit of residents, service users and communities. Without appropriate risk management arrangements there is an increased likelihood services are impacted by unexpected changes that could have been prevented.

### **Consultation & Engagement carried out (or required)**

No consultation was carried out in relation to this report. The policies listed do not involve proposals that directly affect residents; therefore, no consultation is required.

## **CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance have reviewed this report and concur with the Financial Implications set out above, noting there are no additional or direct financial implications associated with the recommendation contained in this report.

### **Legal**

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to have a sound system of internal control which must include effective arrangements for the management of risk. This is echoed in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL