

**DECISION MAKER:** PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRATEGY AND TRANSFORMATION

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** COUNCILLOR BRYONY RUDKIN

**SENIOR OFFICER:** HELEN PLUCK

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

The Council's Risk Management Strategy, action plan and toolkit have been reviewed and updated to ensure its relevant to the Corporate Strategy. These documents are attached to this report for consideration and approval.

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 3 Section 3 of the Constitution [Executive Functions]: "A Portfolio Holder may make any decision on an Executive Function which they reasonably consider relates to their portfolio."

In light of the Executive being unable to meet since March 2024, it is proposed that the Portfolio Holder makes the decisions as outlined in this report on behalf of the Executive.

***Ward(s) affected:***

n/a

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

- a) Appendix 1 – Risk Management Strategy
- b) Appendix 2 – Risk Management Acton Plan
- c) Appendix 3 – Risk Management Toolkit

*This report has been prepared by Julia Barker,*

Email: [julia.barker@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:julia.barker@ipswich.gov.uk)

***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Internal consultees*

*Corporate Management Team*

*Portfolio Holder*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

*Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town*

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW**

*(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)*

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### **OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS**

*(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)*

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## **1. Executive Summary**

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- 1.1 The Council's Risk Management Strategy, associated action plan and toolkit have been reviewed and updated and are attached to this report for consideration.
- 1.2 Primary Risk Management (RM) objectives are to:
- continue to ensure that RM is an integral part of the culture and operations of the Council to facilitate effective decision making;
  - ensure a systematic approach to RM, integrated with performance management;
  - manage risks in accordance with best practice;
  - ensure clear accountability for both ownership and the tools to effectively manage risk.
- 1.3 The strategy is intended to give the Council reasonable assurance that risk management is operating effectively within IBC, to identify and monitor risks to the achievement of the Council's priorities within the Corporate Strategy.

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## **2. Background**

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- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Strategy 'Proud of Ipswich' was adopted in July 2023.
- 2.2 The Risk Management Strategy, action plan and toolkit has been updated in line with the Corporate Strategy.
- 2.3 Risk tolerance levels and risk appetite are included in the Risk Management Strategy to ensure that the Council agrees the level of risk accepted (risk appetite) in addition to the risk tolerance (consideration of the most appropriate responses to the management of identified risks).
- 2.4 The Strategy's associated action plan and toolkit have also been updated and were reviewed by the Corporate Management Team (CMT).
- 2.5 The Risk Management Strategy and associated action plan will be reviewed every three years.

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## **3. Relevant Policies**

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- 3.1 Risk Management is a vital part of strategic management and the Council's Corporate Strategy 'Proud of Ipswich', underpinning the decision making that facilitates effective local government.

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#### **4. Options Considered / Under Consideration**

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- 4.1 While the Council could operate without a Risk Management Strategy this would not represent good governance and would increase the risk of the council failing to meet its duties to the people of Ipswich. Therefore, the option to have an up to date Risk Management Strategy is recommended.

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#### **5. Consultations**

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- 5.1 The Risk Management Strategy was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee in March 2024. The Strategy was developed following an independently facilitated workshop on risk management with Portfolio Holders and the Corporate Management Team.

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#### **6. Risk Management**

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<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact of risk</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (scale 1-6) 1 – almost impossible 6 – very high</b>	<b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (scale 1 – negligible; 4 – catastrophic)</b>	<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>
The Council's risk management strategy is outdated and/or ineffective	Leads to poor decision making, damaging reputation and public confidence	The Council has an embedded RM strategy referred to and approved by Executive	2	3	Annual review of risk management process in line with business planning  RM strategy and action plan is reviewed regularly
The strategy does not become embedded within the organisation	Unaccountability, poor decision making	Relevant procedures and processes are in place, widely publicised	2	3	Adoption of the risk management strategy  CMT proactive in monitoring risk  Audit & Governance Committee monitors and reviews the Council's risk management arrangements

					<p>The strategy links in with the corporate strategy</p> <p>Issue clear guidance to managers</p> <p>Train all managers and councillors</p> <p>Raise awareness of risk management methodologies Council wide</p>
Employees do not have the skills to effectively manage risks	Poor decision making, impact on Council's objectives/priorities	Established procedures to identify, assess and manage risks. Risk assessment documented and maintained.	2	4	<p>Regular review of Corporate Risk Register at CMT</p> <p>Appropriate support provided to CMT and Heads of Service via the business and service planning process</p> <p>Raise awareness of risk management methodologies Council wide</p> <p>Any further training is provided on an ad hoc basis by the Business Improvement Team</p>

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## 7. Environment and Climate Change Impact

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- 7.1 The Council has declared a climate change emergency and has resolved to start working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. All Council decisions should take into account and respond to the potential impact that they will have on the climate and wider environment.

- 7.2 There are no environmental implications directly associated with this report.

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## **8. Equalities, Diversity and Community Implications**

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- 8.1 Under the general equality duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010, public authorities are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.2 The protected grounds covered by the equality duty are age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. The equality duty also covers marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination.
- 8.3 The law requires that this duty to have due regard be demonstrated in decision making processes. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which public authorities can demonstrate that they have had due regard to the aims of the equality duty.
- 8.4 There are no equalities and diversity implications directly associated with this report.

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## **9. Crime and Disorder Impact**

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- 9.1 There are no impacts on crime and disorder in the Borough directly associated with this report.

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## **10. Financial Considerations**

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- 10.1 There are no financial considerations directly associated with this report.

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## **11. Legal Considerations**

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- 11.1 There are no legal considerations directly associated with this report.

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## **12. Performance Monitoring**

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- 12.1 The Audit & Governance Committee provides independent assurance of risk management through its review of the strategy and the risk register.
- 12.2 The Council's Internal Audit service area provides independent recommendations for improvement and provides assurance on the Council's risk management arrangements.

- 12.3 The Business Planning and Service Planning processes identify service group risks and the mitigation measures which are in place to deal with these risks.

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**13. Conclusions**

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- 13.1 Adoption of a new Risk Management Strategy will form a key part of the council's governance arrangements and enable the delivery of the Corporate Strategy.

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**14. Recommendations**

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- 14.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Transformation approves the revised Risk Management Strategy, Action Plan and Toolkit.**

Reason: To ensure the Council has good governance in place