

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of Meeting: 23 March 2009

Report Title: Corporate Risk Management Policy and Strategy

Report By: Richard Homewood
Corporate Director Environmental Services

Purpose of Report

To present the revised Corporate Risk Management Policy and Strategy for consideration and approval by Audit Committee.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To approve the revised Corporate Risk Management Policy and Strategy.**

Reasons for Recommendations

The Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Strategy have been revised to reflect changes and improvements made in recent years to national guidance and "best practice". The changes made to this document have been significant and seek to further embed risk management principles throughout the Council's work and the performance management framework that supports it.

Background

1. The Council has a statutory responsibility to have in place arrangements for managing risks, as stated in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006):

“The relevant body shall be responsible for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the body’s functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk”

2. Risk management is recognised as an important element of good corporate governance. The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework on Corporate Governance requires Councils to establish and maintain a systematic strategy, methodology and processes for managing risk. They must also report publicly on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
3. In 2003 the Council adopted a Risk Management Strategy, to seek to ensure that all activities associated with risk management were embedded within the mainstream performance management framework of the Council. The objective of this updated document is to ensure that the authority continues to meet its objectives, protect assets and resources, and that it fully meets the requirements of the Audit Commission Standard, demonstrating a clear link between risk management and internal control.

Risk Management

4. This document is the cornerstone of Hastings Borough Council's Risk Management Framework.

Organisational Consequences

5. Risk Management responsibilities are clearly defined within the Risk Management Strategy.

Wards Affected

None

Area(s) Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No

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Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

Supporting Documents

Risk Management Strategy 2003

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