

Audit Committee report

25/03/2025

AUDIT COMMITTEE

PART I

Amendment to the Risk Management Strategy 2024 (ADCCC)

1 Summary

- 1.1 Following Full Council on 10 December 2024, Officers have been asked to consider the following amendment to the Risk Management Strategy.
- 1.2 “To add a separate column to the right of the second table at Appendix A, concerning impact of the Green Belt. The precise risk thresholds to be agreed by the Audit Committee.”

2 Details

- 2.1 Officers have carefully reviewed this proposed amendment to the Risk Management Strategy 2024 and identified several challenges that suggest it may not be the most effective approach.
- 2.2 No other authority whose risk management strategies or policies were reviewed includes a single stated environmental factor, such as the impact on the Green Belt, as a distinct risk category within their framework.
- 2.3 Risk management strategies are designed to assess risks in a balanced and comprehensive manner, ensuring no single issue is given disproportionate emphasis without clear, overarching justification.
- 2.4 The impact on the Green Belt is inherently difficult to quantify in a consistent and tangible way, as it involves evolving factors such as planning policies, environmental considerations, and socio-economic implications. Establishing precise risk thresholds for this factor would be complex and may not align with the structured, measurable approach required for effective risk management across the Council’s various responsibilities and endeavours.
- 2.5 In a future iteration of the strategy, the Council could consider introducing a broader environmental risk category to capture a wider range of relevant issues in a more structured and comprehensive manner.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To adopt the Risk Management Strategy, with the current risk categories of;
 - Service disruption
 - Financial loss
 - Reputation
 - Failure to meet legal obligation
 - People

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 None

5 Financial, Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

None specific.

6 Recommendation

That:

6.1 The Councils Risk Management Strategy is adopted.

6.2 The Committee agrees to give delegated Authority to Associate Director of Corporate, Customer and Community to authorise minor changes to the policy, such as terminology, clarification, or administrative corrections with no significant impact.

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