

Audit Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	16 July 2025
Report Title	Updated Risk Management Policy Statement, Strategy & Framework
EMT Lead	Lisa Fillery – Director of Resources
Head of Service	Katherine Woodward – Head of Audit
Lead Officer	Mark Goodwin - Audit Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Audit Committee approves and, where necessary, provides comments on the revised 'Risk Management Policy Statement, Strategy & Framework'.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the constitution the Audit Committee are responsible for governance and are required to seek assurance on the effectiveness of the operation of the risk management arrangements.
- 1.2 Mid Kent Audit have been working with the Council on update the previous 'Risk Management Framework'. The proposed version has been revised to include a 'Risk Management Policy Statement' and 'Risk Management Strategy', supported by the 'Risk Management Framework'.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the changes contained in Appendix 1:
 - A 'Risk Management Policy Statement' has been added. This sets out an overview of the Council's approach to risk, which takes into account the best practice in risk management as per the [HM Government Orange Book](#) and the [Institute of Risk Management](#).
 - A 'Risk Management Strategy' has been added. This formalises the arrangements for managing risk in the Council and sets out the criteria for this to be delivered.
 - Elements of the existing 'Risk Management Framework' have been incorporated into this, such as roles and responsibilities, risk appetite and risk rating and responses.
 - New sections have been added to explain the objectives, the risk register configuration, and monitoring and reviews that will be undertaken.
 - A revised 'Risk Management Framework' has been included. This explores the practicalities and processes in place for managing risk within the Council.

The majority of the content has been transferred for the existing framework, with minor updates made to reflect the changes outlined above.

- It is important to note that there have been no changes to the Council's risk appetite, risk matrix or likelihood & impact scales.
- The changes do not alter the Council's approach to risk management, instead this revised document aligns with best practice and encapsulates aspects of risk management that were not previously documented.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council's risk management arrangements have been in place since 2015, with Mid Kent Audit facilitating the operation of the overall process. The previous 'Risk Management Framework' was comprehensively updated and approved by the Audit Committee in July 2022.
- 2.2 Risk management is well established within the Council; with officers actively engaged in the process, and aware of their corporate, and operational, risks and how to manage them.
- 2.3 The Council uses risk management software (JCAD) to support risk owners with the maintenance of their risks, which is configured in accordance with the Council's risk management process.
- 2.4 The revised document has been reviewed against an accessibility checker, and conforms to the expected standards.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The existing 'Risk Management Framework' is due a refresh in July 2025. This Committee, as those charged with governance, must gain assurance that the Council is operating an effective risk management process, and that risks are being managed. We therefore propose that the Committee approves the new 'Risk Management Policy Statement, Strategy & Framework', and provides comments on the operation of the risk management process.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 In order for any risk management process to be effective it is vital that risk information is reported to evidence that risks are monitored, and that action is taken to manage risks to an acceptable level. Reporting risks to Members is necessary to provide assurance that risks are being managed. An alternative option would be to not review how risk are managed, but this would go against the terms of reference for this Committee.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The new 'Risk Management Policy Statement, Strategy & Framework', was designed through consultation with Executive Management Team and feedback from Audit Committee Members.
- 5.2 All risk owners have been involved in the identification and assessment of the risks on the register.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Effective risk management is part of the Council's governance framework. The purpose of the risk management process is to ensure that key risks are identified and appropriately managed as the Council pursues its corporate objectives.
Financial, Resource and Property	Investment in developing risk management arrangements is met from existing resources within the Mid Kent Audit partnership. No implications have been identified.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	No implications have been identified.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No implications have been identified.
Health and Wellbeing	No implications have been identified.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No implications have been identified.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	This report is about risk management across the Council. No health and safety implications have been identified.
Equality and Diversity	No implications have been identified.
Privacy and Data Protection	No implications have been identified.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: The new 'Risk Management Policy Statement, Strategy & Framework'

8 Background Papers

- Risk Management Framework 2022.