

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Audit and Governance Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
**Report of:** Head of Policy & Performance  
**Subject/Title:** Risk Management Policy Review

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 The Council's Risk Management Policy forms part of the overall internal control framework and corporate governance arrangements. An internal control system with risk management at its core will facilitate the effective and efficient operation of the Council by enabling it to respond appropriately to risks. This increases the likelihood of the Council achieving its strategic objectives.
- 1.2 The present risk management strategy was last amended and approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 July 2009, and is, therefore, due for review. The review of the risk management strategy by the Corporate Risk Management Group showed that, whilst the majority of the strategy components appeared to be appropriate, there were a number of areas that required updating. This paper presents an updated Risk Management Policy from the Corporate Risk Management Group for consideration and approval.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is requested to consider and comment on the updated Risk Management Policy prior to the policy being submitted to Cabinet for approval. The policy is to be reviewed annually.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 In order to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the Audit and Governance Committee needs to be assured that the Council publishes a clear risk management policy covering risk management philosophy and responsibilities.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 N/A

### **6.0 Policy Implications (including Climate Change/Health)**

- 6.1 Risk Management is integral to the overall management of the authority and, therefore, considerations regarding key policy implications and their effective

implementation are considered within departmental risk registers and as part of the risk management framework.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

7.1 None

## **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

8.1 As well as the need to protect the Council's ability to achieve its strategic aims, and to operate its business, general principles of good governance require that it should also identify risks which threaten its ability to be legally compliant and operate within the confines of the legislative framework, and this report is aimed at addressing that requirement.

## **9.0 Risk Management**

9.1 This report relates to overall risk management; the Audit and Governance Committee should know about the most significant risks facing the Council and be assured that the risk management process is working effectively.

## **10.0 Background**

10.1 A copy of the updated Risk Management Policy is attached for comment at **Annex A** to this report; this includes a sub-section on Business Continuity. Attached for reference and information at **Annex B** to this report is a copy of the present Risk Management Strategy.

10.2 The policy does not include details of the risk management process or the procedures and documentation. These are held separately and it is intended that these will be included in a risk management handbook or toolkit for staff and Members and include information on risk management of partnerships and projects.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

11.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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