

Report for:	Formal Shadow Executive
Meeting Date:	31 March 2020

Title of Report:	Risk Management Strategy
Shadow Portfolio Holder	Katrina Wood
Responsible Officer	Richard Ambrose
Report Author Officer Contact:	Maggie Gibb, 01296 387327, mgibb@buckscc.gov.uk
Recommendations:	<p>To approve the Risk Management Strategy for Buckinghamshire Council.</p> <p>To note the risk process and work that will progress across the organisation post vesting day, to ensure that a robust risk framework is embedded.</p>
Corporate Implications:	None
Options: (If any)	None – the Risk Management Strategy supports the effective management of risk and good governance.
Reason:	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Risk Management Strategy for approval.

2. Content of Report

2.1 The Risk Management Strategy provides a framework designed to support Members and Officers in ensuring that the Council is able to discharge its risk management responsibilities.

2.2 The key objectives of the Risk Management Strategy are to:

- Embed risk and opportunity management into the culture of the organisation;
- Develop a balanced approach to managing the wide range of business risks facing the Council;
- Manage risk in accordance with legislation and best practice; and
- Establish a common understanding of the Council's expectations on risk management with partners, providers and contractors.

- 2.3 The Strategy will eventually set out the Council's risk appetite. The risk appetite should be reviewed, at least annually and will differ for across the Council and activities. It is suggested that the risk appetite should be agreed alongside the Directorate and Service Planning process and that it should be an engaging process with Members and the Corporate Management Team. The strategy therefore provides a "placeholder" for this and "template" which can be further developed and agreed post vesting day.
- 2.4 The Strategy states that the responsibility for managing risk belongs to everyone across the Council and that there needs to be a good understanding of the nature of risk by all stakeholders. However, the details of the roles with specific responsibilities for managing risks need to be further developed when structures and teams are in place. This should be done as part of establishing the "ways of working" and can be an engaging process to support the development of an effective risk management culture.
- 2.5 The strategy will be supported by a risk management framework and process to be developed through engagement with the Corporate Directors and Leadership Team. Engaging in the development of the framework is an important part of embedding an effective risk management culture.
- 2.6 The current BCC and WDC risk management system, Pentana, will be used to manage the risks in the new unitary authority. The system is currently being populated with the new structure, and a risk data transfer exercise is planned for early April to ensure that relevant legacy risks are captured and managed effectively.
- 2.7 We are proposing to identify at least one Risk Champion within each area of the business, to ensure that all services have a "go-to" person for risk queries and for support with the system.
- 2.8 The network of Risk Champions would meet with the Corporate Risk Team on a regular (minimum quarterly basis) to review the current and emerging risks and to escalate risks where appropriate.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Council has a responsibility to ensure effective management of risk to enable the fulfilment of statutory duties and as a custodian of public funds. The Risk Management Strategy supports the Council in fulfilling this duty.

5. Other Key Risks

- 5.1 None.

6. Dependencies

- 6.1 None



7. Consultation

7.1 Not Applicable.

8. Communications Plan

8.1 Not Applicable.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 An equalities impact assessment is not required. The Risk Management Strategy provides a framework for managing risk at Buckinghamshire Council and is therefore supportive of managing risks associated with the potential for breaches of the Equalities Act.

10. Data Implications

10.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required. The Risk Management Strategy provides a framework for managing risk at Buckinghamshire Council and is therefore supportive of managing risks associated with the potential for breaches of the General Data Protection Regulations.

11. Next Steps

11.1 The Risk Management Strategy will be communicated across the organisation and a supporting operational risk framework will be developed for each Directorate to ensure that the risk appetite and escalation framework is appropriate to support achievement of objectives. This will support the engagement and embedding of risk management into the organisational culture and processes.

Background Papers	It is a legal requirement to make available background papers relied upon to prepare a report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services). Hyperlinks to papers published online should be used where possible. Where there are no background papers, insert None.
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