

**Meeting:** Cabinet **Date:** 23rd March 2023

**Wards affected:** None

**Report Title:** Torbay Council's Risk Management Policy

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** Immediately

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Councillor Carter, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services, Christine.carter@torbay.gov.uk

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 With the support of the Devon Audit Partnership Manager, the Council's Senior Performance and Risk Officer has been implementing a series of actions to improve the council's approach to its risk management.
- 1.2 To date the significant improvements, include:
  - Devising a new risk management policy, framework and supporting documentation
  - Cleansing and reconfiguring the existing risk management software (SPAR.net) ready for use
  - Training 70+ managers and staff on risk management, the council's framework and how to use the software
  - Hosting a risk training / workshop session for the Senior Leadership Team which focused on strategic and corporate risk identification
- 1.3 This report requests that Cabinet adopt the new Risk Policy.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 2.1 The risk policy is the key document that sets out the council's commitment and how it intends to manage risk within its business activities. The policy includes the legislative requirements, priorities for the council, an explanation of our registers, how we score risks, our current tolerance thresholds and details on roles and responsibilities.
- 2.2 The proposals in this report help us to deliver the corporate plan by supporting the council's ambition to become fit for the future.

2.3 The policy contains eight objectives and states that the council will:

- Embed risk management into the culture and decision making of the council
- Integrate risk management into key business processes to ensure there is a consistent approach and that the risks are managed effectively
- Manage risk in accordance with best practice, whilst developing an approach tailored to meet the council's own needs
- Continually identify new and future risks that may impact on the council
- Work with partners, providers and contractors to develop awareness and a common understanding of the council's expectations on risk management
- For the cost of risk to be reduced and for assets, people and the council's reputation to be protected
- For risk registers to be up to date, regularly maintained and challenged
- Ensure effective monitoring and management information, reporting on the key risks facing the council through the democratic process

2.4 The reasons for the decision are that Torbay Council needs to have an up to date, adopted risk policy in place. The policy is a critical document that supports the council's risk management processes.

### 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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That Audit Committee recommends to Cabinet to adopt and implement the council's new Risk Policy attached as Appendix One.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Risk Policy – February 2023

## Background Documents

None

# Supporting Information

## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 The council's risk management framework dated December 2016 is out of date and no longer in keeping with the council's current processes. The new risk policy reflects the council's risk management practices and processes.

## 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 Improvement to the council's performance and risk management processes was identified as a project within the existing Community and Corporate Plan under Council Fit For The Future. A revised, adopted Risk Policy is one of the actions required as detailed in the risk improvement plan.

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 N/A

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 There are no anticipated legal implications.

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 5.1 This policy does not require public consultation as it is an internal facing policy document. The policy will apply to staff and members who will adopt the content within their existing working arrangements.
- 5.2 No formal consultation was held, however, the policy was drafted in collaboration with the Chief Executive Officer and her Senior Leadership Team. The policy was shared with the Devon Audit Partnership Manager and his Risk Lead for comment before bringing forward the final draft for approval.

## 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

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- 6.1 N/A

## 7. Tackling Climate Change

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- 7.1 This policy has no direct contribution to tackling climate change, however the risk management processes will ensure critical issues such as these are captured strategically and mitigations are identified and actioned.

## 8. Associated Risks

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8.1 There are no anticipated risks associated with the implementation of this policy.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

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	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact
People with a disability			There is no differential impact
Women or men			There is no differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			There is no differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal			There is no differential impact

impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			
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## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

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10.1 No known cumulative impacts within the council at this point.

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

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11.1 No known cumulative impacts with other public services at this point.