



PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose:

To provide clear evidence of the effective operation of a Risk Management Policy and the organisation's role in implementing the process.

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Document Control

Title:	Peterborough City Council Risk Management Policy			
Synopsis:	This document outlines the effective operation of a Risk Management Policy and the organisation's implementation of the process.			
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This document sets out the risk management policy for Peterborough City Council.

Risk Management Vision

Peterborough City Council is committed to effective risk management arrangements as a means of supporting the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives.

The risk management vision is to consolidate and improve our risk management arrangements to bring the following benefits:

- Better **communication** vertically about key issues, early and often, and horizontally, learning lessons and reducing duplication of effort
- **Consensus** about the main risks in different parts of the organisation
- **Confidence** that the key risks are recognised and are being managed, both by the Council and its partners.
- **Clarity** and focus: directing resources to risks that matter away from risks that don't, and fewer surprises.
- **Taking more risks and exploiting opportunities**, because they are understood and managed.

Risk Management Principles

The Council's approach to risk management is built on the following principles:

- The political leadership and senior management of the Council are **committed** to effective risk management
- Risk management operates within a culture of **transparency** and **openness**; we encourage risks to be raised and escalated as appropriate
- Risk management arrangements are **dynamic**, flexible and responsive to developments
- The process of risk management is simply a means to ensure appropriate action to take opportunities and mitigate risks
- The risk management process must be consistent, clear and straightforward and result in timely information that helps informed decision making
- Risk management is **integrated** with other key business processes such as planning, decision making, performance management and programme management
- Risk management has links to many other management disciplines and we encourage sharing of information and joint working as necessary
- The risk management approach is also beneficial in managing any risks associated with the delivery of opportunities.

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Risk Management Framework

The Council's Risk Management Framework is described below and shown in the diagram in [Appendix A](#) (Risk Management Process). The Process sets out the overall arrangements for the operation of risk management at Peterborough; it therefore encapsulates the risk strategy of the organisation. An action plan will be put in place to ensure that this strategy is delivered, and this will be monitored by Audit Committee.

The Council is working towards greater synergy between Risk Management and Planning and Performance Management arrangements, as shown in [Appendix B](#)

The internal audit team provides assurance on the adequacy of Risk Management arrangements to the Audit and Accounts Committee, as shown in Appendix C (attachment required).

The table below sets out the framework and the expectations of its key elements:

Organisational Risk Management Arrangements	
<i>Element</i>	<i>Peterborough's expectation</i>
Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers risk in its planning decisions; • Sets the overall risk appetite for the organisation; • Monitors the performance of management in mitigating strategic risks; • Makes decisions with due regard to risk considerations.
Lead Member for Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champions the operation of effective risk management operations at Council.
Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds Members and Officers to account for effectiveness of risk management in decision making and achievement of objectives
Corporate Management Team (CMT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owns and leads the corporate risk management process; • Reviews and challenges the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis; • Receives urgent risk reports as necessary • Individually, arranges for quarterly review of Directorate level risk registers.
Lead Officer for Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as a champion for risk management within the organisation • Chairs Corporate Group? Audit Committee?
Members of Corporate Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and challenge their respective risk registers on a quarterly basis and more often if appropriate.
Risk Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountable for determining and implementing the action required to manage risks and opportunities; • Review and report on effectiveness of actions on a quarterly basis.

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Organisational Risk Management Arrangements	
Element	Peterborough's expectation
Project and Programme Sponsors, Procurement leads. (Business Transformation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure risk registers are used to record and manage risk at programme and project level; • Ensure risks are escalated into the corporate risk management process as necessary
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are alert to risks arising from business as usual and manage and escalate these as necessary.

Risk Management support, guidance, challenge, policy and strategy, co-ordination	
Element	Peterborough's expectation
Business Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements the overall risk management strategy and approach, in consultation with key stakeholders; • Works to increase awareness of the importance of risk management; • Supports the risk escalation and reporting process, in particular the Corporate Risk Register; • Gathers risk intelligence from the Risk Implications paragraphs in Cabinet reports • Maintains an oversight of risk issues across the organisation, reviewing, challenging and identifying trends and advising CMT accordingly.
Audit Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the implementation of the organisation's risk management strategy; • Acts as a communication and challenge mechanism for risk issues across the organisation, reviewing, challenging and identifying trends and advising Executive / Corporate Directorate Management Teams accordingly; • Review and challenge Service and Corporate Directorate risk registers on a rotational basis.
Risk Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate and implement the Service / Corporate Directorate risk management strategy in line with the overall organisational approach; • Work to increase awareness of the importance of risk management across their area; • Support the risk escalation and reporting process, in particular, maintain and update the Service and Corporate Directorate Risk Registers; • Monitor and report on any necessary action to implement risk control measures. • Challenge and support managers to ensure the effectiveness of the risk management process in their area.

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Assurance, oversight, policy & strategy approval	
<i>Element</i>	<i>Peterborough's expectation</i>
Audit Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversee the risk management arrangements in place within the organisation• Monitor the effectiveness of risk management processes and culture;• Holds managers to account for risk mitigation work;
Internal Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses intelligence on risk to inform the audit planning approach;• Gives assurance on the effective management of risk to senior managers, the Audit and Accounts Committee and other bodies as necessary.• Examination of corporate risk registers as part of the planning during the audit process

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The Risk Management Process

Risk identification, assessment and recording

At whichever level it is operated, the standard risk management process involves four key stages:

- Identify key risks: use the [standard risk register](#) to record these; use the risk category prompts/service plans to assist the identification of risk;
- Analyse the risk to assess the likelihood of it occurring and the impact should it occur using the standard corporate impact and likelihood criteria (if appropriate these can be modified in discussion with the Business Transformation Team); use the standard risk register to record this;
- Take action to control the risk; contingency plan for risk exposure/occurrence; record details in the [standard risk register](#).
- Review and report upon progress on a quarterly basis.

Risks can be identified, assessed and included on the appropriate risk register at any time in the year.

Risk registers

The Council adopts a consistent approach to risk registers:

- They are owned and maintained at the following levels:
 - At CMT and Executive Directorate level (each Corporate Managerial Team member therefore having a risk register)
 - For projects and programmes, in line with guidance provided by the Business Transformation Team
 - For significant value contracts above European Union thresholds
 - For any other area identified as necessary as approved by Cabinet, for example, for a financial recovery plan.
- They are held on a universal spreadsheet template using the corporate risk scoring approach.

Escalation of risks

Where it is considered that a risk cannot be effectively mitigated by a risk owner it will be important to escalate this up the risk hierarchy as shown in [Appendix A](#) (Risk Management Process).

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Risk appetite

The risk appetite is the level of likelihood/impact, whether it is stated financially or otherwise, above which it is judged that a risk requires direct and urgent management action. To determine the risk appetite consider:

- capacity to manage the risk should it occur;
- potential impacts upon service delivery and financial resources;
- capacity to take action to reduce / remove the risk;
- the effect that managing one risk may have on another.

The corporate risk appetite applies to Corporate Management Team level risks and to Strategic Risks. The corporate risk appetite is set by CMT.

Risk review and reporting

Risk registers will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and more often if appropriate. After this review the Risk Group will meet to share updates on the development of risks and of mitigating action. Based on this discussion the Lead Officer will prepare an update report for CMT which will then be used to inform the quarterly review of the Corporate Risk Register. The report will cover:

- Progress of risk management action plans
- Risks managed down to acceptable levels
- Significant emerging risks, their severity/likelihood score and what action is to be taken.

The Corporate Risk Register will be updated as necessary and CMT will be advised accordingly.

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Areas for Review and Development

Role of Corporate Risk Group (Business Transformation Team)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the team acts successfully to challenge and support risk management and to identify key issues for escalation
Risk Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessing the opportunities for reviewing Service Plans/VERTO project management system for risk reporting
Standardisation and consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring the quality of risk registers included quality of risk description
Ensuring action to mitigate risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the management action arrangements
Embedding risk management into key business processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring risks are considered as part of integrated planning and performance reporting• Ensuring risks relating to decisions are clearly presented
Promote the updated approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval by CMT; visits to DMTs; support and advice
Role of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering training aimed at ensuring members understand the risk management process and expectations upon officers

Document links

[Appendix A - Risk Management process](#)

[Appendix B - \(Risk Management and Planning and Performance Management arrangements\).](#)

[Corporate Risk Register Template](#)

[Service Risk Register Template](#)

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