

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1		New Forest District Council actively manages risk in order to contribute to meeting its objectives and statutory obligations. The Council will use this strategy as a tool to promote innovation and safeguard against threats in support of the Corporate Plan
2		Definition – Risk is an event or uncertainty that may enhance (an opportunity) or impede (a threat to) the Council's ability to achieve one or more of its objectives effectively
3		Risk Identification - Strategic risks will be identified against corporate challenges and priorities within the corporate plan. Operational risks will be identified within the day to day issues that managers and staff encounter
4		Risk Analysis - Risks will be analysed to determine the frequency/likelihood of an adverse event or outcome occurring and the impact/severity if it did occur. They will then be prioritised for action. Risks will also be analysed to support strategic policy decisions and financial planning within reports
5		Risk Control - To mitigate against identified risks the Council will opt to control the risk by taking action to manage the likelihood and/or impact down, to accept the risk, to transfer the risk through insurance or contractual arrangements or terminate the risk by ending the activity or taking the decision not to do something
6		Risk Recording - Risks will be recorded in a series of risk registers. Risks to the achievement of the Corporate Plan will be contained by Portfolio in the Strategic Risk Register and service specific risks recorded in the relevant Service's register. In the case of significant projects the Project Manager will ensure that risks are considered in line with the Council's Project Management Guide
7		Risk Monitoring and Reporting - As far as possible Risk Management is embedded within existing practices and aligned to the Performance Management Framework. The Strategic Risk Register will be reported annually to Cabinet. The effectiveness of the risk management framework will be reported annually to the Audit Committee within the annual audit and assurance report
8		Roles and Responsibilities - Elected Members have a responsibility to understand the strategic risks that the Council faces and will be made aware of how these risks are being managed through the annual performance process. The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the development and operation of Risk Management. Officers are responsible for the delivery of the strategy
9		Guidance and Review - Detailed guidance in support of the Council's Risk Management arrangements is available to Members and Officers and the Risk Management Framework will be kept under review
10		Contacts – There are several strands to the Council's overall approach to Risk Management. In addition to strategic Risk Management it includes workplace health & safety, ICT disaster recovery, business continuity and operational risk management which includes the provision of insurance cover. For more information on any of these activities contact the Performance Management Team