



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 28 July 2021	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Opportunity Risk Management Policy & Corporate and Strategic Risk Registers (July 2021)**

Report Author(s): **Comie Campbell (Head of Finance & Acting S151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To present the Opportunity Risk Management Policy for approval by the Audit Committee and to present the Operational and Strategic Risk Registers for information.
Report Summary:	<p>The Opportunity Risk Management Policy (Appendix 1) establishes and formalises arrangements the Council has in place for identifying, documenting and managing risks to the achievement of its Corporate Objectives. It also incorporates a new process that seeks to identify opportunities to deliver Corporate Objectives more effectively and efficiently and subsequently to implement actions designed to maximise the potential for realising identified opportunities.</p> <p>Appendices 2 and 3 present the current Operational and Strategic Registers, which are updated on a quarterly basis through discussions with members of the Corporate Management and Senior Leadership Teams.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>A. That the Opportunity Risk Management Policy (as set out at Appendix 1) be approved.</p> <p>B. That the Operational and Strategic Risk Registers (as set out at Appendices 2 and 3) be considered.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Anne Court (Chief Executive) (0116) 257 2602 anne.court1@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Comie Campbell (Head of Finance & Acting Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2713 comie.campbell@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Kevin Watkins (Risk Support) 07887 429242 Kevin.watkins@cwaudit.org.uk</p>
Corporate Objectives:	<p>Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2) Providing Excellent Services (CO3)</p>
Vision and Values:	<p>"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Accountability (V1) Innovation (V4)</p>
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.

Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Failure to Respond to a Significant Incident (CR7) Reputation Damage (CR4)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Deputy Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opportunity Risk Management Policy 2. Q1 2021/22 Operational Risk Register 3. Q1 2021/22 Strategic Risk Register

1. Introduction & Background

- 1.1 During the final Quarter of 2019/20, Internal Audit reviewed the Council's Risk Management processes, providing an overall Moderate Assurance in respect of the control environment examined. In reporting the outcome of the review, the two key issues that were highlighted which Management were required to address were the production and approval of a formal Risk Management Policy and the introduction of periodic reporting of Risk Registers to the Audit Committee.
- 1.2 The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic during the early part of 2020 impacted on the Council's ability to respond to recommendations made within the report in the timescales originally agreed. Nevertheless, throughout 2020/21 a number of actions were taken to ensure that a Risk Management Policy was drafted and that the Council's Operational and Strategic Risk Registers were updated on an ongoing basis. This report summarises this activity and presents both the Policy for approval and the Risk Registers for consideration by the Committee.

2. Drafting the Opportunity Risk Management Policy

- 2.1 Following the departure of the previous Chief Financial Officer, who had a number of risk management responsibilities, the Deputy Chief Executive commissioned CW Audit Services to provide a Risk Support role, which included the preparation of a Risk Management Policy and maintenance of the Operational and Strategic Risk Registers on behalf of the Corporate Management and Senior Leadership Teams (CMT & SLT).

- 2.2 Research was undertaken into the format and content of Local Government (and NHS) policies on risk management as part of preparatory work prior to drafting of the Council's Policy, the results of which were shared and discussed with SLT. Notably, a number of Councils had adopted an approach which incorporated the identification of opportunities to improve and enhance the delivery of objectives, in addition to the management of risks that could threaten the achievement of objectives. SLT unanimously agreed that the Council's Policy should reflect both risk and opportunity management principles.
- 2.3 Throughout 2020/21, SLT reviewed a number of drafts of the Opportunity Risk Management Policy, resulting in the document being presented at this meeting for approval by the Audit Committee.

3. Operational and Corporate Risk Registers

- 3.1 The Operational and Corporate Risk Registers are updated on a quarterly basis through discussions between Risk Support and members of the CMT & SLT during one-to-one meetings. Both Registers are submitted to an SLT meeting once a quarter. The Registers being presented to this meeting represent Management's assessment of risk as at the end of Quarter 1 of 2021/22.
- 3.2 Following the Committee's approval of the Opportunity Risk Management Policy, Risk Support will co-ordinate implementation of the Policy, including the production of the Opportunities Register and the introduction of the revised format for the Operational Risk Register (Appendix A2 in the Policy).