

REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF: CORPORATE HEAD, FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICES

REPORT NO: CHFCS66

DATE: 24th September 2009

TITLE:	Risk Management Strategy 2009/10	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	None	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr Mike Taylor Assets and Resources Portfolio Holder	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Malcolm Gorringe Interim Service Manager (Finance & Risk) m.gorringe@southkesteven.gov.uk Telephone (01476) 406511	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below:	Full impact assessment Required:
Equality and Diversity	N/A	No
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Risk Management Strategy 2009/10 Risk Management Annual Report 2008/09	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Governance & Audit Committee is requested to:

- Review the Strategy and identify any amendments required.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

Risk management, including the implementation of the strategy is a key element within the annual Use of Resources assessment which forms part of the joint inspectorates' framework for Comprehensive Area Assessment that came into effect from April 2009.

It is a requirement of the Council's approach to risk management that the strategy is regularly reviewed and updated in line with its developing needs and priorities and best practice. This report updates the previous strategy (April 2008) and seeks to clarify the various roles, responsibilities and governance structures.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

A full report detailing the activity undertaken during the previous year (2008/09) was considered by this Committee in May 2009. This identified the need to review and update the strategy and align the methodology with best practice. Accordingly, this has been undertaken and officers will continue to keep the Council's approach under review on an annual basis.

The current strategy has brought together all key processes involving risk at strategic and operational level, including partnerships, project management, health and safety, business continuity, etc. The risk management group, established in 2007/08 has continued to meet with discussions centring on reviewing operational/service risks and the development of business continuity plans, health & safety and risk management training, etc. The corporate risk register continues to be reviewed on a quarterly basis by Management Board and the next update will be reported to this Committee at its meeting in December.

Good progress has been made in raising awareness of risk management within all service areas and the embedding of risk management across the authority as a whole. Implementation of the revised and updated strategy will help to improve and strengthen the processes that underpin the Council's overall approach to managing risk.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This report has no direct impact on the Council's resources, including finance/ budget, people, land/property etc.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

None

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

None

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None

9. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

This report provides a revised and updated risk management strategy and looks at the Council's overall approach to managing risk. It is important that Governance and Audit Committee reviews the strategy and identifies any amendments required prior to its adoption throughout the authority.

10. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The strategy has been reviewed to provide a more “user friendly” format. The management of risk involves every single person involved in council business. It is essential it is understood and followed internally and by external contractors. The strategy should be included in the Council’s publication scheme and all employees, members and contractors should be made aware of the contents of the strategy and their responsibilities in accordance with the strategy.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

None

12. APPENDICES:

- Appendix A – Risk Management Strategy 2009/10