

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Council Office
New Green Centre
Thurston IP31 3TG

Tel: 01359 232854

e-mail: info@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

website: <http://thurston.suffolk.cloud>



RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023

INTRODUCTION

This document forms the Council's Risk Management Strategy. The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Develop risk management and raise its profile within the Council
- Manage risk in accordance with best practise
- Anticipate and respond to changing social, environmental and legislative requirements

POLICY STATEMENT

Risk management is the process that is used by the Parish Council to address the risks associated with an event or action which will adversely affect its ability to achieve its objectives to deliver high quality public services. The failure to manage risks effectively can be expensive in terms of litigation and reputation, the ability to achieve desired targets and, eventually, on the local community's council tax bills.

The Council is aware that some risks can never be eliminated fully, and it has in place a strategy that provides a structured, systematic and focussed approach to managing risk. The emphasis should always be on eliminating or reducing the risk before costly steps to transfer risk to another party are considered.

IMPLEMENTING THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Risk Control – is the process of taking action to minimise the likelihood of the risk occurring and/or reducing the severity of the consequences should it occur.

Methods used will include:

- Elimination – circumstances from which a risk arises are removed so the risk no longer exists
- Reduction – control measures are implemented to reduce the impact/likelihood of the risk
- Transfer – the financial impact is passed to others
- Sharing – the risk is shared with another party
- Insuring – insure against some or all of the risk to mitigate financial impact
- Acceptance – documenting a conscious decision after assessment of areas where Council accepts or tolerates the risk

Ongoing Reviews as detailed under Future Monitoring

Risk Monitoring – the risk management process must be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that any changes to the nature of any risk has been taken into account and the risk control procedures adapted accordingly.

Risk Management System – is the process by which risk will be managed:

- Risk Identification – informed decisions can only be taken by the Council if it has identified and understood the hazards and risks facing the policies and decisions it has undertaken. Risks will be identified in the Annual Risk Assessment carried out in February / March of each year.
- Risk Analysis – once risks have been identified, analysis should be undertaken as to the potential frequency of the risk and its consequences. If a risk is seen to be unacceptable then steps should be taken to ensure that the risk is controlled or a response it taken to the risk.
- Risk Prioritisation – an assessment should be made of the impact and likelihood of risks occurring and prioritised as low, medium or high.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – risk management is seen as a key part of the Council's role which will include:

- Establishing clear roles, responsibilities and reporting lines within the council for risk management
- Providing opportunities for shared learning on risk management across the council
- Providing risk management training and awareness sessions
- Incorporating risk management considerations into the Council's management processes
- Effective communication with, and the active involvement of, employees
- Monitoring arrangements on an on-going basis
- Ensure that Internal Audit provides a scrutiny role to provide independent assurance to the Council that the necessary risk management systems are in place and all significant risks are being managed effectively
- Ensure that feedback from Internal and External Audit is fed into the Council's risk management strategy
- Ensure that the Council reviews legal guidance published by NALC, on all matters relating to governance and accountability
- Ensure that Council is aware and trained to take effective action on the requirement under the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 on the documents needed to be kept in order to show that the Council is complying with the legislation.
- Ensure that the Policy & Resources Committee annually reviews the Risk Management Strategy and reviews the Insurance Schedule

MONITORING –

- Risk Management Strategy – the above document was first adopted by the Finance Committee in February 2014. Policy & Resources Committee have delegated powers to carry out such reviews:

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| March 2015 | November 2015 | February 2016 |
| November 2016 | February 2017 | November 2017 |
| March 2018 | February 2019 | November 2019 |
| February 2020 | February 2021 | February 2022 |
| This review to be carried out February 2023 | Review due February 2024 | |

- Annual Insurance Review – first reviewed by the Finance Committee February 2014. Schedule of review dates by the Policy and Resources Committee/Clerk and the Council’s Internal Control Officer as per the terms of reference for the committee:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| November 2014 | March 2015 | November 2015 |
| February 2016 | November 2016 | February 2017 |
| August 2017 | November 2017 | March 2018 |
| May 2018 | August 2018 | November 2018 |
| February 2019 | September 2019 | February 2020 |
| September 2020 | January 2021 | April 2021 |
| July 2021 | October 2021 | July 2022 (Cyber) |
| September 2022 | July 2022 (Cyber) | August 2022 |
| Review due June 2023 (Cyber) | Review due August 2023 | |

- Financial Risk Assessments – first reviewed by the Finance Committee February 2014. Policy and Resources Committee established 2015 and terms of reference amended to include such assessments:

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|
| March 2015 | February 2016 | November 2016 |
| February 2017 | March 2018 | March 2019 |
| February 2020 | February 2021 | February 2022 |
| Review currently being carried out due February 2023 | Review due February 2024 | |

- Internal Control – schedule of the Council’s internal control reviews:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| August 2017 | November 2017 | March 2018 |
| May 2018 | August 2018 | November 2018 |
| March 2019 | May 2019 | August 2019 |
| November 2019 | February 2020 | September 2020 |
| January 2021 | April 2021 | July 2021 |
| October 2021 | February 2022 | May 2022 |
| August 2022 | November 2022 | Review due February 2023 |