

Risk Management Policy Statement

Sevenoaks District recognises that it has a responsibility to manage risks to achieving its objectives, both in terms of minimising threats and maximising opportunities. The Council supports a focused and empowered corporate approach to managing risks. In this way the Council will better achieve its corporate objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the local community.

Sevenoaks District Council is aware that some risks will always exist and could not be eliminated. Hence the main focus is on “managing risks” rather than eliminating risks.

The Council’s objectives regarding the management of risks are to:

- Conform to the highest standards of corporate governance, in order to protect the interests of our community.
- Use risk management to help ensure high quality and effective service delivery.
- Ensure that risk management is integral to the decision-making processes within the council.
- Manage risk in accordance with best practice, considering legal compliance to be a minimum standard.
- Anticipate and respond to changing social, environmental and legislative requirements.
- Prevent injury, damage and losses and reduce the cost of implementing risk actions.
- Heighten awareness of the need for effective risk management by all those connected with designing, delivering and management of Council services.

These objectives will be achieved by:

- Establishing clear roles and responsibilities within the Council for risk management.
- Empowering managers and officers to use the risk management framework in order to achieve improved and innovative service delivery.
- Communicating risk management information across the Council on a need to know basis and sharing best practice.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of risk management arrangements on an on-going basis through the use of performance measures.
- Using the Strategic Management Team to champion and direct the Council’s risk management framework.
- Preparing contingency plans where required.
- Focusing risk assessments on the threats and opportunities which may prevent or enhance the achievement of the Council’s ability to achieve its objectives and deliver on its promises.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources will be the Member Champion for risk management. Reports on risk management reports will be considered by the Council’s Audit Committee.