

REPORT TO: **Audit & Governance Board**
DATE: **24 September 2025**
REPORTING OFFICER: **Director of HR and Corporate Affairs (Interim)**
PORTFOLIO: **Corporate Services**
SUBJECT: **New Risk Management Policy**
WARD(S): **Borough-wide**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Following on from an External Audit visit and subsequent recommendations the Council was advised to urgently revise its Risk Management Policy.

A new proposed Policy, (see appendix 1) has been drafted in conjunction with subject matter experts at Zurich Municipal, the Council's Insurers.

The aim of the Policy is to provide direction and alignment to current Risk Management processes across all the Council's Directorates.

Executive Board approved the new proposed policy on September 11th and recommended that the Audit & Governance Board oversee the implementation of the new Risk Management Policy and associated actions.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

1)the report be noted, and

2) Audit & Governance Board approves the updated Risk Management Policy, with changes outlined in Section 3.3 of this report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Risk Management is a key aspect of Halton Borough Council's approach to handling uncertainties. This process is embedded in the Council's decision-making framework, ensuring alignment with its strategic objectives.
- 3.2 The Council is committed to fostering a positive risk culture that values openness, transparency, constructive challenge, and collaboration across all levels of the organisation.
- 3.3 Recommended changes within the new policy:
(Section 4 of proposed Policy)
- Quarterly Risk Reports to Audit & Governance Board.

- Quarterly Progress Reports to go to both Audit & Governance Board and the Executive Board.
 - Monthly Portfolio Holder meetings with formalised discussion of the Risk Register.
 - A quarterly briefing provided to the Executive Board outlining priority strategic risks and risk management actions, aligned with performance and finance reporting.
 - To include Corporate/Directorate risks in quarterly performance reports to PPBs.
- 3.4 This draft Risk Management Policy was approved at Management Team (June 3rd) and Executive Board (September 11th), with final approval at Audit & Governance Board (September 24th).
- 3.5 As part of this new approach, a new risk register and monitoring regime will also be implemented – this will be supported by training and a new toolkit for both Officers and Members, of which will be undertaken and developed by Zurich Municipal.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A new updated and operational Policy.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An effective Policy will protect the Council's resources and reduce exposure to potential losses and liabilities.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence
- 6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy
- 6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- 6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need
- 6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future
- 6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

There are no direct implications for any of the Council's priorities listed above.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The risk of not updating this Policy would be irresponsible and leave the Council open to potential accidents and claims. This Policy will put in place a number of key objectives which will collectively ensure effective Risk Management across the organisation.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of any new Council Policy being implemented.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Appendix 1: Halton Borough Council Draft Risk Management Policy