

## **Birmingham City Council**

### **Risk Management Policy Statement 2017**

Our Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Methodology support the City Council's vision and priorities which are set out in the Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+. The Council has a vision for Birmingham. This is to make Birmingham a city of growth where every child, citizen and place matters.

The Council has a well established approach to managing risk. It has recognised that risk is an integral part of innovation in order to deliver the key outcomes of the Council. By managing risk proactively we can take full advantage of opportunities and better use the limited resources available.

In particular a clear understanding of the risks and opportunities arising from the changing nature of service delivery is important; partnership working with businesses, academia, the public sector and the community is increasing and more services are being 'commissioned' rather than directly provided by the Council. New types of service providers are being used, or may be used in the future, such as Trusts, Social Enterprises and Co-operatives as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations, to drive service improvements. There is a greater emphasis on personal choice and the safety and opportunity for all children, the provision of a great future for young people and ensuring thriving local communities. However, these changes in service delivery provide new risks and opportunities to be managed.

Council objectives relate to the whole city and indeed region. As a result they can be influenced by an enormous variety of risks and opportunities. It would be impossible to identify all of these risks and opportunities. It is therefore important to focus on high risks and getting early warning of when they become more imminent, or start to take effect, and to enable us to be in the best position possible to make the most of opportunities.

Advice has been provided to directorates through the Risk Management Strategy and the publication of the Risk Management Toolkit. There is a regular process of risk assessment at a corporate level. This process identifies and scores key risk factors, and results in the Corporate Risk Register - a public document. This outlines the controls and plans in place to respond to the risks and opportunities identified. Transparency and accountability are key to the process.

As part of the corporate governance agenda the Council includes an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) within the Statement of Accounts. The AGS incorporates a statement on internal control, including risk management. Directors and Heads of Service are also required to produce a governance statement in relation to their Directorate / service to support the AGS.

Note: The Risk Management Methodology is now included within the Risk Management Toolkit.