

REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	13 December, 2023
SUBJECT:	Risk Management Framework
PURPOSE:	To seek approval for the Risk Management Framework
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Richard Fry, Portfolio Holder for Finance (risk management and finance)
REPORT OF:	John Medler, Assistant Director - Governance
REPORT AUTHOR:	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights and Transformation
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT:	No

SUMMARY

This report brings forward a partnership-wide Risk Management Framework to ensure a consistent approach across the three Councils. This is based on good practice and feedback from internal audit. It has been reported to Audit & Governance Committee and Executive Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To consider the recommendation of the Executive Board:

- That the Risk Management Framework at Appendix A be approved, with delegation to the Assistant Director – Governance to make any small amendments to the Framework in future in consultation with the portfolio holder.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide an aligned and consistent approach to risk management across the Partnership.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing. It has already been agreed by Councillors, via the Annual Delivery Plan, that a Risk Management Framework for the Partnership should be developed for consideration. As such, this option was discounted.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. When the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership formed in October 2021, the Partnership Business Case identified opportunities for collaboration between the Partnership Councils, including the alignment of policies where appropriate.
- 1.2. In the 2023/24 Annual Delivery Plan, approved by Council in March 2023, an action was identified to draft a Partnership-wide Risk Management Framework for consideration. Aligning the format and reporting process for risks across the three sovereign Councils will ensure that risk management continues to be efficient and effective across the Partnership.
- 1.3. This report brings forward the Risk Management Framework for approval.

2. REPORT

- 2.1. A revised Risk Management Framework has been drafted for the Partnership at Appendix A.
- 2.2. The Framework brings together risk management good practice from all three Councils and across the sector.
- 2.3. As part of the recent internal audit of risk, our internal auditors reviewed the draft and suggested improvements to wording and formatting which have been incorporated into the final document.
- 2.4. Audit & Governance Committee have also made suggestions for improvement which have also been included. For example:
 - Risk appetite – added under Key Components in the Framework
 - Heat map – included in quarterly reporting of risk registers
 - Direction of travel – included in quarterly reporting
 - Clear marking of changes to the register each quarter – included in quarterly reporting
 - Target risk – included in quarterly reporting
 - Future actions – included in quarterly reporting
 - Opportunity risk – added under Risk Definition in the Framework and throughout the document
- 2.5. The draft has been reported to Audit & Governance Committee on 22nd November 2023 and Executive Board on 29th November 2023, with no further comments or amendments made.

3. CONCLUSION

A single Risk Management Framework is a natural next step for the Partnership to ensure a consistent approach and to incorporate good practice.

The Framework will support the Council to manage its services in an effective and efficient manner and to ensure good governance is in place.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

A Partnership approach has been agreed for 2023/24.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

A Partnership approach has been agreed for 2023/24.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Whole report

STAFFING

None specific to this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None specific to this report.

DATA PROTECTION

None specific to this report.

FINANCIAL

None specific to this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Whole report

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Consultation with SLT, Internal Audit and Audit & Governance Committee.

REPUTATION

None specific to this report.

CONTRACTS

None specific to this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None specific to this report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None specific to this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None specific to this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None specific to this report.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government’s ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Risk Management Framework
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
Audit & Governance Committee	22 November, 2023
Executive Board	29 November, 2023

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights and Transformation; suzanne.rolfe@boston.gov.uk
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