



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

22 April 2025

Subject: WLDC Risk Management Strategy 2025-2029

Report by: Assistant Director People & Democratic Services

Contact Officer: Lisa Langdon
Assistant Director People & Democratic Services

Purpose / Summary: To present to Governance and Audit Committee for review, the Councils revised Risk Management Strategy 2025-2029

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Governance and Audit Committee are asked to:

- consider and approve the Risk Management Strategy 2025-2029 as at Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial: FIN/163/25/MT/SL

There are no financial implications arising from this report. However, effective risk management ensures that there is a robust mechanism to identify, analyse and mitigate risks which may have an impact on delivery of our plans and finances.

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing: None

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None

Any changes to projects/services/policies would require their own EIA to be carried out.

Data Protection Implications: None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

The Strategic Risk register records, monitors and mitigates the risks of the Council not achieving its Corporate Plan and statutory objectives. This has been taken into account within these Strategic Risks in line with the Corporate Plan 2023-27.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-council/how-the-council-works/key-plans-policies-and-strategies/risk-management/>

Risk Management Strategy 2019-2023

Risk Assessment: None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Risk management is a statutory requirement for local government to ensure business continuity and is an essential component of corporate governance.
- 1.2. By having effective risk management practices in place and embedded as part of everyday working and decision making, the Council can ensure that it is focusing on the right areas and can direct scarce resources at those issues most likely to have an adverse effect on the achievement of the Corporate Plan.
- 1.3. This is particularly pertinent in the current economic and ever changing environment within which local government operates.

2. Background

- 2.1. The previous strategy covering the period 2019-2013 was produced and approved by Members in 2019. This has now been updated to take account of and complement the Council's Corporate Plan (2023- 2027); to reflect the current context within which the Council is operating and to take into account the recommendations following the Risk Management Internal Audit in 2024.

3. Consultation

- 3.1. To support the delivery of the revised Strategy, consultation with Members and Management Team took place between July and December 2024. This was undertaken through workshops with Members, discussions at Governance and Audit Committees and discussions at Management Team. Following these discussions a questionnaire was circulated which collected information to determine the risk appetite of the council. The results when analysed determined the 'risk appetite' of the Council (as a collective body) as Creative and Aware and were reported back to Management Team in December 2024.

4. Proposed draft strategy

- 4.1. The proposed strategy in Appendix 1 sets out the Council's approach to managing risk and also following the consultation details the authority's 'risk appetite' as being 'Creative and Aware' in nature. This level means that the Council is willing to take calculated risks to seize opportunities (innovation) and achieve success. To do this the Council will consider all delivery options and choose the one that is most likely to result in successful delivery while also providing a good level of reward.
- 4.2. Developing this strategy from the previous strategy has meant the introduction of 3 risk levels rather than 2. Previously it included inherent (basis of no action being taken) and target levels (after all actions are in place). The third level is the introduction of the residual level. This is where the inherent level is reviewed to show what progress has been made toward the target level and can be used to show the direction of travel.

5. Next Steps to implementation

- 5.1. After approval of the strategy the next steps to implementation would be for Management Team to undertake a full review of the Strategic Risk Register in line with this strategy. The new Strategic Risk Register would then be presented to Governance and Audit Committee.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. Governance and Audit Committee are asked to consider and approve the Risk Management Strategy 2025-2029 as at Appendix 1.