

# Birmingham City Council

## Risk Management Policy Statement 2010

Reviewed May 2010

This document forms part of a set of policies and procedures for all levels of staff to use to manage risk. The others are:

- The Risk Management Strategy which describes the council's objectives, how these will be met, a definition of risk and the roles and responsibilities of both Members and staff regarding risk management
- The Risk Management Methodology which describes the practical steps to be taken in managing risk
- A detailed Risk Management Toolkit, which provides further guidance along with background information, reference material and links to other useful information.

These documents are all available on InLine at Risk Management documents and, with the exception of the Toolkit, are also posted on the Birmingham.gov website.

## **Birmingham City Council Risk Management Policy Statement 2010**

Our Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Methodology support the City Council's Corporate Planning Framework. Central to this, Birmingham 2026 sets out the long-term vision for Birmingham that the City Council, in collaboration with its partners, is working to achieve:

"Birmingham 2026 is about the citizens within our communities working together with us to deliver economic success, providing social wellbeing whilst living within our environmental limits. Birmingham is renowned for its innovative and creative past. We need to harness this spirit to ensure we deliver that kind of success but in a new age of cultural diversity, digital communication, technological advancement and environmental sustainability."

This vision is translated into a set of clear strategic outcomes and priorities in the Council Plan, which is underpinned by objectives and targets that cover the key areas of the Council's activity.

It is our policy that risk management is carried out and an assessment of risks to the delivery of these objectives and targets is undertaken as a vital part of our activities. Robust, forward looking risk management is a key element within the new Comprehensive Area Assessment process and remains an important part of the Use of Resources Key Lines of Enquiry that the Council is measured against. It is also crucial that the changing nature of service delivery is acknowledged within the risk management process. In particular, the increasing use of partnership working and the Business Transformation programmes 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.

As part of the corporate governance agenda the Council will include an Annual Good Governance Statement (AGGS) within the Statement of Accounts, which is signed by the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director of Resources and the Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer. The AGGS includes a statement on internal control

A framework is set out which enables and encourages directorates to manage risks, including the requirement for Directors to produce a governance statement. Advice has been provided to directorates through the Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Methodology documents, and the publication of the Risk Management Toolkit. Embedding the framework for dealing with all these risks will be achieved by building on a regular process of risk assessment. This process identifies and scores key risk factors, and results in a register of key risks. This enables managers to maintain controls and plans which respond to those risks, and learn from experience. Transparency and accountability are key to the process.