

**ESSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Essington Parish Council (the Council) recognises that it has a responsibility to manage risks effectively in order to protect its employees, assets, liabilities, and community against potential losses but acknowledges that risk cannot be totally eliminated. The Council will work to minimise uncertainty in achieving its goals and objectives and to maximise the opportunities to achieve its vision and will put in place a structure to manage risk.

Risk is the threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and to successfully execute its strategies. Risk management is the process by which risks are identified, evaluated and controlled. It is a key element of the framework of governance together with community focus, structures and processes, standards of conduct and service delivery arrangements.

Risks can be classified into various types but it is important to recognise that for all categories the direct financial losses may have less impact than the indirect costs such as disruption of normal working.

Risk management will:

- a) Strengthen the ability of the Council to achieve its objectives and enhance the value of services provided.
- b) Help to ensure that the Council has an understanding of "risk".
- c) Help to ensure that the Council adopts a uniform approach to identifying and prioritising risks.

2. KEY OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the Council's risk management strategy are to:

- a) Integrate risk management into the culture of the Council.
- b) Manage risk in accordance with best practice.
- c) Anticipate and respond to changing social, environmental and legislative requirements.
- d) Prevent loss, disruption, damage and injury and reduce the cost of risk thereby maximising resources.
- e) Inform policy and operational decisions by identifying risks and their likely impact.

3. PROCEDURE

The Council will seek to achieve the key objectives by:

- a) Establishing clear roles, responsibilities and reporting lines within the Council.
- b) Providing opportunities for shared learning on risk management across the Council and promoting opportunities for training.
- c) Incorporating risk management considerations into the Council's management processes, e.g. project management.
- d) Effective communication with and the active involvement of employees.
- e) Monitoring risk management arrangements on an ongoing basis.

- f) Councillors and employees to have regards for risk in carrying out their duties including adhering to relevant risk assessments.

4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISK MANAGEMENT

It is the responsibility of all councillors and volunteers who work for the Council and employees, whether full time part-time, temporary or casual to have regard for risk in carrying out their duties.

The co-operation and commitment of all Councillors and employees is required to ensure that the Council's resources are not wasted as a result of uncontrolled risk.

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