

AMBROSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

It is a requirement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – point 5 of the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) – that the Council is able to confirm that it “carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and or external insurance over where required.”

The Internal Auditor will also check that the Council’s significant risks have been assessed and reviewed as necessary (section C).

Therefore, the Council must assess all significant risks, both financial and reputational, which may affect the Council achieving its objectives.

What is Risk?

The *Practitioners’ Guide* 2025 edition (5.89) states that “Risks are uncertain events or conditions (not just financial) that if they occur, will affect the authority’s ability to achieve its objectives.”

Who is responsible?

It is the Council, as a corporate body, which has overall responsibility, but the Councillors and staff must be accountable.

What should be considered?

Risk management is an essential feature of good governance. With this in mind, an organisation which manages risk well is more likely to achieve its objectives. It is vital to recognise that risk management is not about health and safety, but applies to all aspects of the parish’s work and decision making processes.

A Council “must identify and assess the risks affecting the council and address those identified risks by mitigating or managing them” (The *Practitioners’ Guide* 2025 5.85).

Section 5.87 of The *Practitioners’ Guide* goes on to state that “Smaller authorities should identify both financial and operational risks. The record should include controls / mitigation and be formally reported and considered by the authority annually.”

The typical categories of risks should include:

- financial – loss of money
- security – fraud, theft, embezzlement;
- property – damage to property;
- legal – breaking the law or being sued;
- IT failure of IT systems or misuse or data loss; and
- reputational – actions taken which could harm the authority’s public reputation.

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What is Risk Control?

Risk control is the process of taking action to minimise the likelihood of the risk event occurring, reducing the severity of the consequences should it occur and mitigating the likelihood.

Risk Identification

Identifying and understanding the risks and hazards facing the Council is crucial to help inform decisions. The Strategic Risk Register will be regularly refined and updated – and considered by the Council at the beginning of every financial year – to ensure that the Council is aware of and can mitigate as many risks as possible.

This strategy was adopted at a meeting of the Parish Council on 21/8/25 (Minute Reference 198 21/8/25 10. c.) to be reviewed annually at the April meeting with the Risk Register.