

## **Risk Management Statement – Epping Town Council**

Epping Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to manage risks effectively in order to protect its employees, assets, liabilities and community against potential losses, to minimise uncertainty in achieving its aims and objectives.

Whilst it is acknowledged that risk cannot be totally eliminated, it is accepted that much can be done to reduce the extent of injury, damage and financial loss. Therefore, Epping Town Council is committed to identifying, reducing or eliminating the risks to both people and the natural and built environments.

The Council will carry insurance in such amounts and in respect of such perils as will provide protection against significant losses, where insurance is required by law or contract and in other circumstances where risks are insurable and premiums cost effective. Epping Town Council monitor their cyber processes and risks and carry specialist cyber insurance with support.

The Council undertakes proportionate checking through a system of rigorous internal and external control and maintains strong relationships with auditors to assist with the management of financial and legislative procedures.

In addition, the Council's Corporate Governance Advisory Committee meets to review and make recommendations to Council on, but not limited to, the following:

- Risk Register
- Statement of Internal Control
- Internal and External Audit Reports
- Appointment of Independent Internal Auditor
- Insurance Reconciliation
- Asset Register
- Staff Terms and Conditions
- Employee Handbook (including Member/Officer Protocol)
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- New Legislation and Guidance
- Staffing matters
- Policies and procedures

Epping Town Council are committed to high standards of ongoing training for its Members and Officers to enhance knowledge.

The Council will seek to embed effective risk management into its culture, processes and structure. Risk will be constantly reviewed and managed.

The Covid 19 coronavirus health situation posed considerable risks to many. It was necessary to review the risks associated with this on an ongoing basis, in

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accordance with changing legislation and circumstances, to protect Council's staff, operations, finances and community.

Epping Town Council will continue to monitor risks on an ongoing basis through risk assessments for individual events and locations, but also annually through its comprehensive risk register designed to cover all of Council's functions and services.

Epping Town Council seek to identify risks in advance and will build mitigation measures into their operations, both financial and procedural wherever possible. Examples of this in 2022 include the proposed cost of living crisis and potential vast increases in energy bills. This is also evident in the close monitoring of reserves.

The Clerk advises and makes recommendations to Council regarding risk on a regular basis. In 2024, this includes recommendations for professional Human Resources/staff support and professional Health and Safety support, to ensure Council keep abreast of changing legislation.

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