



RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

The Integration Joint Board (IJB), like all organisations, faces a wide range of risks at all levels of the organisation. The aim of this policy is to communicate why risk management should be undertaken, provide a common risk management language and a description of the approach that will be adopted by the IJB to manage its strategic risks. This policy is supported by the Risk Management Strategy, which is underpinned by the Management of Risk (M_o_R) Guide and its associated framework, principles, approach and processes.

The IJB understands that effective Risk Management is one of the foundations of effective Corporate Governance which has been adopted in its Local Code of Corporate Governance. Compliance with the principles of sound corporate governance requires the IJB to adopt a coherent approach to the identification and effective management of the risks with the outcome that better and more assured risk management will bring many benefits to the IJB and the people it serves.

The IJB recognise that risk management should be aligned with strategic objectives and will therefore be considered within the strategic planning process. This ensures that the risks to achieving these objectives are identified and prioritised.

The IJB will continue to systematically identify, analyse, evaluate, control and monitor those risks that potentially endanger or have a detrimental effect upon its people, property, reputation and financial stability whether through core service delivery or through a programme of change.

Risk appetite, capacity and tolerance

Risk appetite is how much risk the IJB is willing to seek, accept or tolerate. A consistent approach to identifying and analysing risk will be followed, which will be compatible with the IJB's capacity to bear and manage risk. This will be supported by the Risk Management Strategy to ensure that the IJB, nor its stakeholders, are exposed to an unknown, unmanaged or unacceptable degree of risk. Risk tolerance will be determined by using a combination of Impact and Likelihood within the Risk Matrix followed by the IJB.

Roles and responsibilities

Integration Joint Board

The IJB Members will need to assure themselves that they have adequate information including risks and mitigations to ensure they are fully informed during decision-making and that strategic risks are being managed effectively.

Chief Officer Health & Social Care Integration

The Chief Officer Health & Social Care Integration will ensure all major decisions are subject to a risk assessment, fostering a supportive culture where all members of staff are openly able to discuss and escalate risks appropriately, and will regularly review the most significant risks threatening strategic objectives and support internal and external audits.

Scottish Borders Council Chief Officer Audit & Risk

The Chief Officer Audit & Risk (SBC) will develop and maintain IJB risk management policy and strategy, ensure these are communicated effectively, and ensure processes are in place to embed these in the IJB's culture and working practices.

Scottish Borders Council Corporate Risk Officer

The Corporate Risk Officer (SBC) will support the management of risk in the IJB by: ensuring that the processes and procedures are followed; ensuring that a strategic risk register is in place and reviewed; preparing management reports; offering training and support; and facilitating risk workshops.

IJB Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will scrutinise the adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's risk management arrangements.

Risk management process

Risk management is not a one-off exercise. It is a continuous process because the decision-making processes it underpins are continuous. Risk management must become an integrated part of good management within the IJB, but not be over bureaucratic and a process for its own justification. To these ends it will be aligned with the strategic planning process and the performance monitoring and reporting schedule.

Risk management will be applied to every activity relating to the IJB, including programmes and projects. It will be part of the decision-making process when developing and reviewing strategic plans.

Reporting

Reporting, to support fulfilment of roles and responsibilities set within the Policy, will include:

- Bi-annual strategic risk register update reports to the IJB.
- Annual report to the IJB Audit Committee on risk management arrangements.

Quality Assurance

This policy will be subject to document control, version control, be reviewed at least annually, and be revised to reflect changes in legislation, risk management best practice, and significant changes in corporate governance.