

---

**RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise the Audit Committee of proposed changes to the Council's Risk Management Strategy.

**Summary**

2. The existing Risk Management Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2007 following endorsement by this Committee (Min Ref C125/Jan/07).
3. It is considered that the Strategy be refreshed to make explicit reference to the Sustainable Community Strategy One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and to reflect the Council's new planning methodology, Outcome Based Accountability, and future business model. An updated Strategy that incorporates such amendments is **attached** to this report.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that the Audit Committee endorse the updated Risk Management Strategy and refer to Cabinet for approval.

**Reasons**

5. The recommendation is supported to ensure the Council has a Risk Management Strategy that remains current and fit for purpose.

**Paul Wildsmith  
Director of Corporate Services**

**Background Papers**

- (i) Use of Resources Auditor Scored Judgements 2009

George Cornforth : Extension 2324

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder
Health and Well Being	There is no specific health and well-being impact
Sustainability	There is no specific sustainability impact
Diversity	There is no specific diversity impact
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally
Groups Affected	All groups are affected equally
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Strategy strengthens the ability of the Council to deliver its contribution to the achievement of the outcomes detailed within the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	There continues to be a reduction in insurance claims as a result of the pro-active risk management work undertaken.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. The existing Risk Management Strategy was approved by Cabinet in January 2007 following endorsement by this Committee (Min Ref C125/Jan/07).
7. The Risk Management Strategy outlines how the Council is taking on its responsibility to manage risks using a structured and focused approach to integrate and embed risk management into the culture of the organisation and its existing processes.
8. Delivery of the Strategy has underpinned the positive scores received in recent years for risk management under the Use of Resources auditor scored judgements. The 2009 score for 'the Authority manages its risks and maintains a sound system of internal control' was three ie performing well – exceeds minimum requirements.
9. However, it is considered opportune to refresh the Strategy to make explicit reference to the Sustainable Community Strategy One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and to reflect the Council's new planning methodology, Outcome Based Accountability, and future business model..
10. The amended Strategy incorporates such changes and is attached to this Report.

### Outcome of Consultation

11. There has been no formal consultation in the preparation of this report