

East Lothian
Integration Joint Board



RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

RISK MANAGEMENT

POLICY Executive

Summary

Key elements

The aim of this policy is to embed risk management within the IJB and ensure effective risk management structures are in place, including:-

- A consistent approach to the identification, assessment and management of
- Assurance that all risk control and mitigation measures will be effective, appropriate, proportionate, affordable and flexible. Risk controls will not be implemented where the cost and effort is disproportionate to the expected benefits.
- The requirement of all members of the IJB and staff supporting the IJB to take responsibility for effective management of risk in all aspects
- The promotion of an open and transparent culture to promote the positive identification and management of risk in the organisation.

Minimum Implementation Standards

The IJB shall have a record of its Risks (a risk register) and the Chief Officer is responsible for implementing this policy. The Chief Officer will ensure :-

- There is a process to systematically consider the relevance and management of existing and new risks in their area.
- That all members of the IJB and any officers supporting the IJB are clear of their roles and responsibilities in regard to implementing this policy.

Why is Risk Management Important?

Risk Management can be defined as the processes involved in identifying, assessing and judging risks, assigning ownership, taking actions to mitigate or anticipate them, and monitoring and review progress.

What is a Risk?

Risk can be defined as the combination of the probability of an event and its consequences (ISO/IE Guide73) and how the threat of that event or action will adversely affect the IJB's ability to achieve its objectives, perform its duties or meet the expectations of its stakeholders. Inherent risk, for the

purpose of this document, can be defined as the exposure arising from a specific risk before any action is taken to manage it and residual risk the exposure arising from a specific risk after action has been taken to manage it and making the assumption that the action is effective.

Risk exists where there is uncertainty of outcome, either in terms of the assurance on the processes the IJB has in place, or in the IJBs's achievement of its performance organisational objectives and targets.

Risk Management is therefore a process that helps the whole organisation identify areas that require attention and remedial action.

What Should Risk Management Achieve?

Risk management is a central part of any organisation's strategic management. It is the process whereby organisations methodically address the risks attaching to their activities, with the goal of achieving sustained benefit within each activity and across the portfolio of all activities.

It should reduce the probability of failure, and increase the probability of success. Risk Management protects and adds value to the IJB and its partners by supporting the organisations objectives by:

- providing a framework that enables future activity to take place in a consistent and controlled manner
- improving decision making and planning and prioritisation by comprehensive and structured understanding of business activity, opportunity and threat

When a risk has been identified, action must be taken to either:

- **Treat:** Eliminate the risk completely, or reduce it to the point where the risk is at an acceptable level.
- **Tolerate:** Where the risk is unavoidable, formally conclude that the risk is of a type that any further action would be disproportionate to the level of risk exposure, and that the risk is therefore at an acceptable level.
- **Transfer the Risk** e.g. insurance cover
- **Terminate the Activity**

The IJB and those officers who support it must be aware that when they have treated the risk they have a responsibility to manage the residual risk through effective systems of controls and monitoring.

When the risk management process has concluded, the IJB should either have an improved response to its assurance need, or improved

organisational performance.

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- The IJB shall have a record of its risks – a risk register
- The IJB shall prioritise its response to its risks in a manner that recognises the objectives of the IJB, and the nature and significance of the risks that are presented.
- The IJB and the Audit and Risk committee shall regularly monitor the current risks, and seek assurance that action is being taken to manage the risks.
- The IJB shall maintain an open and transparent culture to promote the positive identification and management of risk in the organisation.