

Elected Councillor Risk Champion

Terms of Reference

This document outlines the Terms of Reference for the Elected Councillor Risk Champion at Bromsgrove District Council. The role supports effective risk management and promotes a risk-aware culture within the Council.

1. Role Title

Elected Councillor Risk Champion

2. Purpose of the Role

The Risk Champion acts as a key advocate for effective risk management within the council. The role supports the development of a strong risk-aware culture, ensuring that elected members understand and engage with the council's approach to identifying, assessing, and managing risk, and appropriate member challenge is presented to officers with risk management responsibilities.

3. Objectives

- Promote awareness and understanding of risk management among elected members.
- Provide a link between the council's risk management function and elected members.
- Support the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee in its oversight of risk.
- Encourage integration of risk management into strategic decision-making.
- Provide challenge to officers of the Council with regard to risk management and mitigation actions.

4. Key Responsibilities

- Champion the importance of risk management across all council activities.
- Liaise with the council's senior officers, including the Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer and the Monitoring Officer, on risk-related matters.
- Liaise with departmental risk champions where relevant.
- Attend and contribute to relevant committees, workshops, and training sessions.
- Review and challenge the council's strategic risk register and risk management framework.
- Be an invited member of the Council's Corporate Risk Management Officer Group (CRMOG).
- Provide informal support and guidance to other councillors on risk-related issues.
- Report periodically to the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee on risk culture and councillor engagement.

5. Skills and Attributes

- Understanding of local government governance and decision-making processes.
- Experience and/or interest in risk, assurance, and performance management.
- Ability to communicate effectively with both officers and elected members.
- Willingness to engage in training and development on risk management.

6. Term of Appointment

The Risk Champion will be appointed/confirmed annually by the Audit Standards and Governance committee, with the option for reappointment. This will normally be at the first meeting of the committee in the municipal year.

7. Support and Resources

The Risk Champion will be supported by:

- The Council's Risk Management Officer or equivalent.
- The Chief Finance Officer, Internal Audit Manager and Monitoring Officer (or nominated deputies)
- Access to relevant training and development opportunities.

8. Reporting and Accountability

The Risk Champion is not a decision-maker but plays an advisory and advocacy role. They will report informally to the Chair of the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee and may be invited to present updates as required.