



# Ryedale District Council

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**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 7 August 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** John Barnett, North Yorkshire Audit Partnership

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Appointment of Officer and Member Risk Management Champions

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

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## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the appointment of an Officer Risk Champion and nominate a Member Risk Champion.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

**Overview and Scrutiny are asked to consider the appointment of officer and member risk champions.**

## 3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

Risk identification and management is an integral element of organisational management to secure the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.

## 4.0 REPORT

It is important that Risk Management is suitably supported at Senior Officer and Member level and its use as a decision-making medium is promoted. If there is not buy-in from the highest levels of the Council, it will not be possible to embed risk into the way it operates.

Embedding Risk Management is noted as playing a significant part in the Use of Resources assessment under CPA and will feature within CAA, which further states that:

*“A senior officer and member jointly champion and take responsibility for embedding risk management throughout the council”*

### **Officer Risk Champion**

The responsibilities of the Officer Risk Champion would be;

- to lead on the development of robust and practical systems for identifying and evaluating risks;
- promoting the benefits of risk management throughout the Council;
- identifying training needs for Officers and Members;
- Ensure that appropriate reports are brought to the Audit committee
- providing Members with guidance, advice and support on risk management.

### **Member Risk Champion**

The overall purpose of the role of the Member Risk Champion is to promote, encourage, challenge and drive improvement in the council's risk management processes. The Champion will work closely with Member colleagues and officers and will support the Officer Risk Champion in meeting his risk management responsibilities.

The main responsibilities of the Member Risk Champion would be;

- to promote the Council's Risk Management Strategy with Members acting as a recognised point of contact for risk related questions and in the facilitation of risk seminars and workshops for Members who require training and awareness in effective risk management techniques;
- to assist the Officer Risk Champion in ensuring that the Council's risk management systems are operating effectively and to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Officer Risk Champion as to the robustness or otherwise of those systems;
- to encourage both officers and Member colleagues to raise the profile of risk at both formal and informal council meetings thereby embedding the risk management systems into the council's day to day working practices.

The Corporate Director (s151) acted as officer risk champion at his previous Authority and has experience in risk management. His appointment as officer risk champion would provide the right level of leadership in this area. Such an appointment together with a member appointment not only meets the requirements of the Use of Resources, but represent best practice and used properly can improve the Council's management of risk.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

Risk Management is a key area within all Local Authorities. Traditionally it has been shown to be an area on which District Council's in particular struggle. This Council needs to build on the base of work already completed. The appointment of Champions can help with that process.

Further reports will be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the responsible committee for monitoring and evaluating risks within the Council.

**Background Papers:**

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact John Barnett if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Ryedale House on 01653 600666 or e-mail [john.barnett@ryedale.gov.uk](mailto:john.barnett@ryedale.gov.uk).