

ALARM STRATEGIC RISK AWARD: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nomination for the London Borough of Croydon for successful delivery of a 15 month plan to embed risk management into the governance arrangements of the Council January 2006 to March 2007. Our commitment and innovative approach to risk management has provided us with a tool to manage and reduce our exposure to risk and a mechanism to drive performance improvements within the Council.



“Croydon Council is aware that risks will always arise in delivering our ambitions and improvements for the community. Some risks will always exist and will never be eliminated. However, Croydon recognises that by having a structured and well focussed approach to managing its significant business risks it can better achieve its corporate objectives and enhance the value of the services it provides to the community, in turn improving the lives of our residents.” (David Wechsler, Croydon Council Chief Executive).

Need for the initiative

We started with a reactive risk management culture, perceived as an add on, not a critical part of our core business. Our challenge was to deliver a pro-active, effective risk management culture meeting our business needs and embracing positive as well as negative risk actions.

The approach taken

Leading from the top. Re-engineering the Council's Management Team agenda to be driven by the Council's risk management framework, demonstrating the real benefits risk management has delivered in improving business performance.

Innovation

Hearts and Minds: The key to changing culture in Croydon is learning and understanding. The top three hundred managers put through a training programme on risk management linking into a real time corporate-wide risk information system and driven by an integrated task management and email process.

Working in Partnership

Working across the Council and with other key external partners including the Local Strategic Partnership, PCT and internal audit provider.

Impact for Croydon Council

This risk management framework enables the Council Management Team and Members to focus on, and review corporately, the critical success areas for achieving strategic objectives ensuring that risks are being managed and mitigated. Therefore risk management is now driving the Council's strategic agenda ensuring that barriers to achieving business objectives are effectively managed.



“Through the training and support from officers, the Cabinet understand that effective risk management ensures we deliver our aspirations for the community” Councillor Tim Pollard, (Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration & Risk Management champion)