

RISK IMPACT DESCRIPTORS TABLE

The following descriptors are designed to assist officers in scoring the impact of a risk, to ensure a consistent approach across the Council. The descriptions are a guide and there may be exceptions depending on the specific nature of the risk:

	Negligible (1)	Low (2)	Medium (3)	High (4)	Very High (5)
Legal and Regulatory	Minor civil litigation or regulatory criticism.	Minor regulatory enforcement.	Major civil litigation and/or local public enquiry.	Major civil litigation setting precedent and/or national public enquiry.	Section 151 or government intervention or criminal charges.
Financial cost (per annum)	Less than £0.5m.	Less than £1 million.	Less than £5 million.	Less than £10 million.	More than £10 million.
Service provision	Insignificant disruption to service delivery.	Minor disruption to service delivery.	Moderate direct effect on service delivery.	Major disruption to service delivery.	Critical long term disruption to service delivery.
Safeguarding and Health & Safety	No injuries.	Low level of minor injuries.	Significant level of minor injuries of employees and/or instances of mistreatment or abuse of individuals for whom the Council has a responsibility.	Serious injury of an employee; and/or serious mistreatment or abuse of an individual for whom the Council has a responsibility.	Death of an employee or individual for whom the Council has a responsibility; and/or serious mistreatment or abuse resulting in criminal charges.
Reputation	No reputational impact.	Minimal negative local media reporting.	Significant negative front page reports/editorial comment in the local media.	Sustained negative coverage in local media or negative reporting in the national media.	Significant and sustained local opposition to the Council's policies and/or sustained negative media reporting in national media.
Environment	No or insignificant environmental damage.	Minor local environmental damage.	Moderate local environmental damage.	Major local environmental damage.	Major national or international environmental damage.

VERY HIGH	5	10	15	20	25
HIGH	4	8	12	16	20
MEDIUM	3	6	9	12	15
LOW	2	4	6	8	10
NEGLECTIBLE	1	2	3	4	5
IMPACT LIKELIHOOD	VERY RARE	UNLIKELY	POSSIBLE	LIKELY	VERY LIKELY

Once residual risk scores have been agreed, they should be approached as follows:

Red: (scores 16 – 25) In excess of Council's risk appetite. Must be escalated to CLT (and on to Strategy & Resources Committee if CLT agree with the risk assessment). Officers must seek to manage the risk down to an acceptable level as a matter of urgency.

Amber: (scores 12 – 15) On the borders of the Council's risk appetite. Management should ensure that they are closely monitoring these risks and that they have arrangements in place to provide assurance over the effectiveness of the controls in place to manage these risks.

Yellow: (scores 5 – 10) Risks should be recorded and reviewed quarterly to assess any increases in the risk score.

Green: (scores 1 – 4) Minimal risk. Monitor as necessary. No actions required.

RISK LIKELIHOOD DESCRIPTORS TABLE

The table below provides guidance to officers on scoring the likelihood of risk occurrences, to support a consistent approach across the Council:

Score	Description
5 Very High (90%+)	Without action, is highly likely to occur. Annual similar occurrences in local government/Council history.
4 Likely (60%-90%)	Strong possibility. Regular similar occurrences known in local government/Council history.
3 Possible (40%-60%)	Might occur. Similar occurrences known in local government/Council history.
2 Unlikely (10%-40%)	Not expected. Rare but not unheard-of occurrence in local government/Council history.
1 Very rare (0%-10%)	Very unlikely to occur. No recent similar instances in local government/Council history.