

Appendix C

Understanding the Risk Register, A Guide to Terms Used

Term	Meaning
Cause	This describes why a risk might happen e.g., a driver of a car not paying sufficient attention to their driving.
Event	This is what is likely to trigger a risk event e.g., in the same example, this could be the driver hitting another car.
Effect	This describes what is envisaged to happen if the risk occurs e.g., if the driver hit another car, it could cause physical damage and possibly injury to occupants.
Inherent Risk	The inherent risk score is what the risk would be if the organisation did nothing.
Residual Risk	This is what the risk score is anticipated to be once the organisation has taken action to reduce the likelihood or impact of a risk.
Risk Control/Mitigation	<p>This describes the action taken by the organisation to move from the inherent “do nothing” risk to the residual risk e.g., introduce driver awareness and skills training. If risk control action is taken, this is expected to lessen the likelihood or impact of a risk and therefore the residual risk score should be less than the inherent risk score.</p> <p>NB. It is not always possible to take action to mitigate a risk, or the cost of taking mitigating action might exceed the anticipated financial impact of the risk arising.</p>
Risk Score	To help assess the severity of a risk, scores are allocated to it depending upon the expected likelihood or impact, the table below describes these.

Risk Assessment Scoring Matrix:

Likelihood / Frequency	Almost Certain	5	Medium	High	Very High	Very High	Very High
	Likely	4	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
	Occasional	3	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	Unlikely	2	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
	Improbable	1	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
			1	2	3	4	5
			Trivial	Minor	Significant	Major	Critical
			Impact				

Likelihood / Frequency

Alternatively this could be expressed as likely to happen within the next:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------|
| 5 = Almost Certain | Will definitely occur, possibly frequently. | Month |
| 4 = Likely | Is likely to occur, but not persistently. | Year |
| 3 = Occasional | May occur only occasionally. | 3 years |
| 2 = Unlikely | Do not expect it to happen but it is possible. | 10 years |
| 1 = Improbable | Can't believe that this will ever happen, but it may occur in exceptional circumstances. | 20 years |

When considering Health & Safety related risks, the likelihood should be expressed as being likely to happen within the next:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 4 = Likely | Monthly |
| 3 = Occasional | Yearly |
| 2 = Unlikely | 5 years |

Further advice on assessing Health & Safety risks can be obtained from the Health & Safety Manager

Impact

Risks will be evaluated against the following scale. If a risk meets conditions for more than one category, a judgement will need to be made as to which level is the most appropriate. For example, if a particular health and safety risk was significant, could result in minor short-term adverse publicity in the local media but had only a trivial financial impact, it might still be categorised as significant.

1 = Trivial event or loss, which is likely to:

- cause minor disruption to service delivery on one or two consecutive days, not noticeable to customers.
- increase the Council's net cost over the 5 year medium term financial strategy (MTFS) period by £50,000 or less.
- be managed with no reporting in the local media.
- cause localised (one or two streets) environmental or social impact.

2 = Minor event or loss, which is likely to:

- cause minor, noticeable disruption to service delivery on one or two consecutive days.
- increase the Council's net cost over the 5 year MTFS period by more than £50,000 but less than £100,000.
- result in minor short-term (up to a fortnight) adverse publicity in the local media
- * be a Health and Safety (H&S) concern that results in an injury but 7 days or less off work
- have a short term effect on the environment i.e. noise, fumes, odour, dust emissions etc., but with no lasting detrimental impact

3 = Significant event or loss, which is likely to:

- cause disruption for between one and four weeks to the delivery of a specific service which can be managed under normal circumstances.
- affect service delivery in the longer term.
- increase the Council's net cost over the 5 year MTFS period by more than £100,000 but less than £250,000.
- result in significant adverse publicity in the national or local media.
- * be a Health and Safety concern that results in more than 7 days off work or is a specified injury, dangerous occurrence or disease that is required to be reported to the H&S Executive in accordance with 'Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013' (RIDDOR)
- has a short term local effect on the environment, or a social impact, that requires remedial action.

4 = Major event or loss, which is likely to:

- have an immediate impact on the majority of services provided or a specific service within one area, so that it requires Managing Director involvement.

- increase the Council's net cost over the 5 year MTFS period by more than £250,000 but less than £500,000.
- raise concerns about the corporate governance of the authority and / or the achievement of the Corporate Plan
- cause sustained adverse publicity in the national media.
- significantly affect the local reputation of the Council both in the long and short term
- * results in the fatality of an employee or any other person
- have a long term detrimental environmental or social impact e.g. chronic and / or significant discharge of pollutant

5 = Critical event or loss, which is likely to:

- have an immediate impact on the Council's established routines and its ability to provide any services and cause a total shutdown of operations.
- increase the Council's net cost over the 5 year MTFS period by more than £500,000.
- have an adverse impact on the national reputation of the Council both in the long and short term.
- have a detrimental impact on the environment and the community in the long term e.g., catastrophic and / or extensive discharge of persistent hazardous pollutant.