

RISK MATRIX – EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Explanation of Risk Assessment Categories

Likelihood

Score

Almost Impossible	1	Less than 1% chance of occurring
Very low	2	1 - 10% chance of occurring
Low	3	10 - 20% chance of occurring
Significant	4	20 - 50% chance of occurring
High	5	50 - 80% chance of occurring
Very High	6	Above 80% chance of occurring

Impact

Negligible	1	No injuries other than minor first aid Financial loss of <£1,000 Letter of complaint Breach of local procedures / standards No disruption to services or achievement of objectives No notable effect on staff morale/motivation No effect on reputation of Council
Marginal	2	Minor injury requiring medical attention Financial loss of £1,000 to £10,000 Minor, isolated legal action against the Council Breach of regulations/standards Small, manageable impact on service delivery or achievement of objectives Isolated, short-term reduction in staff morale/motivation One-off adverse publicity in local press
Critical	3	Serious but not life-threatening injury Financial loss of £10,000 to £250,000 Legal action over long period of time requiring resources Breaches of law punishable by fines Service badly disrupted for a short period or major service objective not achieved Serious, and/or widespread and prolonged reduction in staff morale/motivation Short-term but wide reaching adverse publicity
Devastating	4	Death(s), or critical injury to a number of people Financial loss of >£250,000 Major legal action against the Council and difficult to defend Breach of law punishable by imprisonment or unlimited fines Key service stops for a period of time or no major service objectives achieved Loss of a number of key personnel Long-term damage to reputation of the Council