Cockermouth Town Council Risk Assessment

Introduction:

Risk assessment is a systematic general examination of working conditions, activities and environmental factors that will enable the Council to identify any and all potential risks inherent in the place or practices. Based on a recorded assessment the Council should then should take all practical and necessary steps to reduce or eliminate the risks, insofar as is reasonably practicable.

This document has been produced to enable the Town Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them. This should be read in conjunction with other assessments produced for specific activities. In conducting this exercise the following plan was followed:

- Identify the areas to be reviewed
- Identify what the risk may be.
- Identify the level of risk
- Evaluate the control of the risk
- Review, assess or action as required.

Finance and Manage Subject	Risk	Level (H/M/L)	Control	D
Subject	KISK	Level (H/M/L)	Control	Recommendation
Business Continuity	Risk of Council not being able to continue its business due to an unexpected or tragic circumstance	L	All files and recent records are backed up. Shared knowledge amongst staff means that they could cover for colleagues.	Existing procedures adequate Review periodically.
Precept	Adequacy of Precept	L	The council reviews the budget estimates for the coming year, together with the projected reserves from the current year. The precept amount is calculated from these figures with an allowance for 3-6 months of reserves to be retained at all times.	Existing procedure adequate.
Financial Records	Inadequate records Financial Irregularities	L L	The Council has financial regulations that set out the requirements. The Edge Finance software ensures that finances balance. Checks are made on entries and payments.	

Bank and Banking	Bank errors Cheque writing errors L statements and writing cheques etc. There have been no known bank errors, but these would be discovered when checking the statement. Bank signatory list streviewed and update	The existing procedure is adequate Bank signatory list should be reviewed and updated		
Finance and Manag	ement		CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	

Subject	Risk	Level (H/M/L)	Control	Recommendation
Cash	Loss or theft	L	The Council handles minimal cash.	Review if position changes
Reporting and Auditing	Information Communication Compliance	L M	Budgets are monitored and reported. Bank statements are reconciled monthly.	Existing procedures are adequate.
Direct Costs Overheads Debts	Goods not supplied but billed. Incorrect Invoicing	L L	The financial regulations set out the procedures. Invoices are presented to the council when a list of payments for approval is submitted. Invoices are checked against delivery notes.	Existing procedures are adequate.
Best Value Accountability	Work awarded incorrectly. Overspend on services	L M	As per the financial regulations, Council seeks a number of quotes where possible, particularly for any substantial work.	Existing procedures adequate, review financial regulations regularly.
Salaries and associated costs	Salary or Tax paid incorrectly	L	Salaries are processed through an external specialist provider. Bank entries are cross-checked by a second person.	Existing procedures adequate
Election Costs	Risk of an election cost	М	The Council make an annual contribution into a ringfenced reserve to cover these costs.	Existing procedure adequate
VAT	Risk of failing to reclaim	L	The financial regulations set out the procedure. The budget review would indicate the omission	Existing procedures adequate
Annual Returns	Submitting within time limits	L	The accounts are always kept up to date and will be ready for submission to auditors within a couple of weeks of year end.	Existing procedures adequate

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Council papers/records	Theft, fire or damage	L	The Council's data is backed up. Most records are stored electronically.	A fireproof cabinet could be considered to store important or historic deeds.
Insurance	Adequacy Cost Compliance	L	An annual review is undertaken before renewal. Best value is sought.	Existing procedure is adequate
Data Protection	Data Breach	L	The council only holds a handful of names and contact details where we are in correspondence with individuals. These details are not stored as a database, so are not vulnerable to a cyber attack. Staff are trained in GDPR	Existing procedures are adequate
Complaints and Reputational Risk	Cost of response and defence	L	Some complaints are to be expected when dealing with the public. Reputational risk can be minimised by having a clear and fair complaints policy and procedure.	Complaints policy and procedure under review.
Freedom of Information Act Requests	Cost of response	L	The Council has taken measures to eliminate vexatious requests by introduction of a policy.	Review what charges can be made and under what circumstances.
Meeting Location	Adequacy Health and Safety	L	Meetings are held in the Town Hall. This is a spacious building with separate risk assessments, and is a suitable venue.	Review if location changes
Assets				
Subject	Risk	Level (H/M/L)	Control	Recommendation
Street Furniture	Loss or damage	М	These may be subject to vandalism. This will be taken into consideration with the insurance review	Ensure adequate insurance cover
Play Areas & Equipment	Damage Injury	M M	They are inspected regularly and maintained.	Check for any required replacements
Liability				

Legal Powers	Illegal Activity or payments	L	All activities and payments are made within the powers of the Town Council. They are resolved and minuted.	Existing Procedures adequate
Minutes/Agendas/Statutory Documents	Accuracy and legality	L	Minutes and the agenda are produced by the clerk and adhere to legal requirements. Minutes are approved and signed at the next council meeting. They are displayed according to the legal requirements.	Existing Procedures adequate
Public Liability	Risk to third party, property or individuals	L	Insurance is in place. Risk assessments are carried out where activities take place. See separate assessments.	Ensure risk assessment is carried out for any council activity.
Employer Liability	Non compliance with employment law	L	If in doubt Council to seek advice from CALC or the SLCC	Existing Procedures adequate
	Staff Health & Safety	М	The workplace is low hazard. Although using display equipment, this is not a continuous activity. Site work, such as visiting allotments or parks/gardens, may present a hazard.	Risk assessments should be carried out.

Date carried out: March 2025

COCKERMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT – YEAR 2024/25

Key Decision Area – <u>ALLOTMENTS</u> –

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Graan	
a)	Insurable Risks Buildings on Site	(i) No Council owned on site (ii) Sheds belonging to tenants	No further action Insurance is own responsibility	Keu	Amber	Green *	
	Accident on Site-Allotment Holder	Public Liability Insurance Cover £15 M via Zurich	No further Action			*	
	Accident – Other 3 rd Party e.g. Trespassing	Public Liability Insurance Cover £15 M via Zurich	No further action			*	
b)	Third Party Arrangements Boundary fences to be kept in good	Council responsibility	Hedges cut annually Repairs carried out as necessary			*	

Key Decision Area – <u>ALLOTMENTS</u> - (CONTINUED)

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
c)	Self-Governance Financial Records	Allotment Register kept	Annual scale of fees fixed & reminder for outstanding accounts sent monthly	red	Amoer	*
	Private Property on Allotments	New Tenancy agreement completed 2002/03 notifying existing tenants there is to be no Council liability accepted for tenants possessions left on site and storage on site of hazardous substances e.g. pesticides & all such substances to be kept under lock & key. Clause also includes condition that safe storage of implements is tenants liability if kept on site and all such implements must be locked safely away				*
	Security of Site	Signs erected – Allotment Holders Only	No further action recommended			*
	Burst Water Pipes	Repaired as necessary Water turned off in winter	No further action recommended			*
	Damaged Boundary Fences/Walls	Repaired as necessary	No further action recommended			*
	Trees	Monitor, undertake works as necessary	No further action recommended			*

$Key\ Decision\ Area-ESTABLISHMENT/\underline{LIBRARY/TOURIST\ INFORMATION\ CENTRE/TOWN\ HALL}$

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
a)	Insurable Risks Contents including fixtures, fittings & tenants improvements, other contents & consumable stock	Organised direct by Town Council with Zurich	Policy amounts are revised periodically. Present cover & computer equipment	100		*
	Accident – Member of the Public whilst on site (Public Liability)	Public Liability Insurance cover £15 M	No further action			*
	Civic Regalia Town Mayor's Chain Mayoress's Chain Deputy Chain	Insurance via Zurich	Regularly review value			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements					
	Internal Auditor (Mrs J. Airey) appointed by Council under new Audit regulations following introduction of 'Lighter Touch Audit'	Regular internal audit work carried out to establish 'proportionate affordable & sustainable' process to strengthen Council's own governance & to 'provide proper accountability for public money' and to enable the Council to 'properly address its risk and their management, the principals of good internal controls and the roles of internal & external auditors'. Yearly review from	I			*
c)	Protection of Financial Assets					
	Investments	Reviewed by Town Council in 2024. Investment Policy Agreed.	Investments split and spread to reduce risk			*

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
d)	Self Governance Back Up of Computer Information	The cover under business interruption policy includes reconstruction of computer records	No further action	Keu	Ambei	*
		Regular back ups carried out. Cloud used to store documents	No further action			*
	Standing Orders & Financial Regulations	Revised Standing Orders & Financial Regulations regularly Reviewed.	No further action			*
	Annual Budget including regular budget reporting	Quarterly monitoring in place	No further action			*
	Asset Insurance/Valuation	Professional valuation of assets carried out in 2003 & inflation increases applied since then. Town Hall re-evaluated 2009.	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – <u>FISHING RIGHTS</u>

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Dad	Action	Green
a)	Insurable Risks Person falling in river from river bank or otherwise whilst fishing or other accident	Public Liability Cover £15 M	No further action	Red	Amber	*
b)	Third Party Arrangements NIL					
c)	Self-Governance NIL					
Key	Decision Area – <u>WAR MEMORIAL/M</u>	ONUMENTS				
	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
a)	Insurable Risks Material Damage – (i) Mayo (ii) Cenotaph (iii) Wordsworth Bust (iv) Dorothy Wordsworth Statue	Zurich policy	Valuation carried out in 2003 & annual inflation increases applied			*
	Public Liability e.g. if Monument collapses on someone	Covered by Zurich policy £15 M	No further action			*
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b) Third Party Arrangements NIL

c) Self-Governance NIL

$Key\ Decision\ Area-\underline{MEMORIAL\ GARDENS}$

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
a)	Insurable Risks Material damage to footpaths by being washed out	Not now covered Paths reviewed periodically and remedial action taken.	Allianz/Zurich refuse to cover following flooding in January'05 which completely washed out footpaths	reu	Miloci	*
	Building on Site – middle section	Covered under Zurich policy	We own building			ж
	Accident on site to members of the public	Covered by Public Liability £15 M	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Accident to workmen whilst carrying out contract works on site	Via Council Contractors insurance	Annual check of contractors policy details			*
c)	Self-Governance Play Area	Annual risk assessment carried out	Take action as recommended agreement by Council)			*
		Daily inspection of play area by Council's Contractor	Take action as recommended following notification			*
	Tree Management for possible problems (falling branches etc)	Trees reviewed in 2024 by tree specialist. Restoration work in 2016 resulted in tre removed from rivers edge as part of flo prevention works. Appointed Andy Nicestand Surveys every 18 months.	od			*
		Surveys every 18 months				

Decision Area – <u>SPECIAL TOURIST PROMOTIONS</u>

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
a)	Insurable Risks (i) Firework Display Injury to person from firework or accident on site	Public Liability insurance £15 M Risk assessment carried out.	No further action required	<u>rteu</u>	<u> miloci</u>	*
b)	Third Party Arrangements (i) Firework Display Damage to buildings, vehicles etc from firework or injury to individual vis firework	'Firers' of display for Council (Pyro 2000) arrange insurance for event	No further action (counter claim would be made by Council if Council sued for any accident) – check policy by PYRO on event basis for amount included			*
c)	Self-Governance (i) Firework Display Keeping members of the public away from fireworks	Barriers erected at a safe distance as agreed by display 'firers'. Stewards appointed, Police notified & help requested re possible crowd disturbances. Notices posted re route to site. First aid on site. Harris Bridge Closed	No further action required			*
Key	Decision Area – <u>VICTORIA HALL</u>					
	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	ני מ	Action	C
a)	Insurable Risks			Red	Amber	Green

	Any claim by individual for accident (fall/trip etc)	Public Liability insurance £15 M provided by tenant	No further action	*
	Accident to employee, member or volunteer whilst on site at official	Personal accident cover provided by tenant	No further action	*
	Victoria Hall	Building insured via Zurich	No further action	*
	Contents – Victoria Hall	Covered by tenant	No further action	*
b)	Self-Governance Fire Risks	Fire Risk Assessment done in 2010. Fire Alarm fitted. Fire equipment upgraded.	No further action	*
	Public Entertainment	Not currently licenced	No further action	*
	Flood Risk	£5k of flood prevention Works carried out 2017	Monitor	*

Key Decision Area – <u>PUBLIC CLOCK (GIBBONS)</u>

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	D 1	Action	
a)	Insurable Risks (i) Gibbons Clock Tower Claim by member of the public for falling masonry etc.	Public Liability insurance £15 M	No further action	Red	Amber	Green *
b)	Third Party Arrangements NIL					
c)	Self Governance Clock Building Damage reported by third party	Inspected annually Immediate repair put in hand	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – <u>OPEN SPACES</u>

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	<u>Comments</u>	D 1	Action	
a)	Insurable Risks Claim by member of public e.g. re collapsed seat, torn clothing, hanging basket falling on someone	Public Liability via Zurich £15 M	No further action	Red	Amber	Green *
	Impact damage to street furniture	Not covered under policy - Council stand loss re vandalism but counter claim if possible	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Hanging of baskets etc via Council Contractor	Council contractor has own Public Liability insurance	Check annually public liability insurance cover in place for possible counter claims if Council sued			**
c)	Self-Governance Inspection of seats & other Council owned property	Periodic inspections by Clerk Majority of Council owned seats. Memorial Gardens seats were all replaced in 2012 due to flood damag	Annual seat/property inspection recommended			*

$Key\ Decision\ Area-\underline{CHRISTMAS\ ILLUMINATIONS}$

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
a)	Insurable Risks Damage to property/persons by falling festoon cable etc	Public Liability Insurance £15 M	No further action	itea	7 HIIOCI	*
	Electrocution by tampering or otherwise	Public Liability Insurance £15 M	No further action			*
	Accident when helping with arrangements – members, employees, volunteers	Personal accident capital sum insured £50,000 - Weekly £100 (includes assault)	No further action			*
	Member of public hurt on Switch On Gala Day	Public Liability Insurance £15 M First Responders on site	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Negligence by Council's Contractor (presently Cumbria Coal)	Copies of Contractors Public Liability & Employers Liability Insurance requested annually before works start for any possible counter claim by Council. General responsibility for safe installation rests with contracto Contractor requested to supply copies of Risk Assessments	7.0			*
c)	Self-Governance Accidental electrocution by member of the public	Major re-vamp of connection boxes in 2010. Now using 1w led bulbs.	No further action			*
	Main festoon cable toppling down	Catenery rope used to support festoon	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – <u>TARN CLOSE SPORTS GROUND</u>

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments		Action	
a)	Insurable Risks			Red	<u>Amber</u>	Green
	Accident on site by member of the public (spectators)	Cockermouth Junior Football lease the site, they have their own public liability insurance	No further action			*
	Injury to sportsmen	Liability left to Cockermouth Junior Football Club	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Accident to authorised workman	Cockermouth Junior Football Club to ensure all workmen have Appropriate insurance	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – $\underline{TARN\ CLOSE\ DEPOT}$

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	D 1	Action	
a)	Insurable Risks			Red	<u>Amber</u>	Green
	Building on site	Leased by Town Council from Eric William Nicholson - Lease dated 26/3/07 on an annual basis	Building insurance via Eric William Nicholson No further action necessary			*
	Accident – Members of the public whilst on site.	Covered by Public Liability Insurance £15 M	No further action			*
	Contents	(i) Mainly Christmas lights stock (lamps, illuminated figures, festoon cable etc)	Insured via Zurich Tested annually			*
		(ii) Storage of misc. equipment by others	No liability accepted by Council			*
	Third Party Arrangements Building on site	Building insurance organised by E W Nicholson	No further action			*
c)	Self-Governance Break Ins etc.	Police would be made aware of problems as they occur	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – <u>TWINNING</u>

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action Amber	Green
a)	Insurable Risks Normal 'holiday' type cover for persons participating in twinning	(i) Members of the public organise their own insurance whilst on twinning visits	No further action			*
		(ii) Councillors/staff re above on <u>official</u> civic visits approved by Council. Arrangements as above.	No further action			*
		(iii) Individuals making own way arrange own insurance	No further action			*
b)	Incoming Visits Accident to member of the public whilst participating in a visit	(i) Covered by Public Liability Ins with Zurich - £15m	No further action			*
c)	Third Party Arrangements School Visits	No visits currently	All risk assessments carried out by school independent of Council			*
d)	Volunteers	Task and Finish groups set up Volunteers are covered by our Public liability insurance	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – PLAY AREAS ON TOWERS LANE, GREYRIGG AVENUE, ISEL ROAD & HARRIS PARK EXTENSION

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	Red	Action	Cusan
a)	Insurable Risks			Ked	Amber	Green
	Accident on site to members of the public	Covered by Public Liability £15 M	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Accident to workmen whilst carrying out contract works on site	Via Council Contractors insurance	Annual check of contractors policy details			*
c)	Self-Governance Play Areas	Annual risk assessment carried out	Take action as recommended agreement by Council)			*
		Quarterly inspection of play area by Council's Contractor	Take action as recommended following notification			*
Key	Decision Area – TOILETS					
	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	D . 1	Action	0
a)	Insurable Risks			Red	Amber	Green
	Accident on site to members of the public	Covered by Public Liability £15 M	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Accident to workmen whilst carrying out contract works on site	Via Council Contractors insurance	Annual check of contractors policy details			*

c)	Self-Governance Toilets	Cleaned & inspected 7 days per week Cleaner reports any defects	Take action as recommended following notification			*
Key	Decision Area – BUS SHELTERS					
	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments	D 1	Action	6
a)	Insurable Risks			Red	Amber	Green
	Accident on site to members of the public	Covered by Public Liability £10 M	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements Accident to workmen whilst carrying out contract works on site	Contractor has own public liability Insurance Contractor carries out own risk Assessments	Annual check of contractors policy details			*
c)	Self-Governance Bus Shelters	Clerk obtains copy of public Liability insurance & risk Assessments annually	No further action			*

Key Decision Area – WEDDINGS

	Identified Risk	Current Arrangements	Comments		Action	
a)	Insurable Risks			Red	Amber	Green
	Accident on site to members of the public	Covered by Public Liability £15 M	No further action			*
b)	Third Party Arrangements					
	Hirers	All hirers sign legally binding Terms and Conditions of hire	No further action			*
c)	Self-Governance Weddings	CTC personnel present at all times	No further action			*