Cyngor Tref y Trallwng | Welshpool Town Council

Risk Register

The Council's Risk Register is part of the financial, administrative and risk control and forms part of the Council's Governance arrangements in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and associated regulations.

The Risk Register is used as part of the internal control arrangements of the Council and is reviewed annually at the Annual Meeting. The Risk Register does not eliminate risk, but allows the Council to treat or mitigate any risks which it has identified. The Risk Register protects the Council and its employees, assets, liabilities and reputation against potential risks.

Methodology

Risk can be reduced or controlled in two ways. Reducing the probability of a risk becoming an incident and reducing the consequences of the incident.

Risks are assigned a rating – acceptable, managed or unacceptable. Risks deemed managed or unacceptable will require action. The ratings are 6-9 – unacceptable; 3-5 – managed; and 1-3 - acceptable.

ID	Topic	Risk	Probability	Impact	Rating	Management or Control of Risk	Action	Residual Rating	Comments	Last Updated
Buildings and Assets										
30	Assets - Gifts	Acceptance is unlawful	1	3	3	Town Clerk to verify and advise on lawfulness	Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
24	Buildings and Structures	Risk or damage to property or individuals	2	3	6	Review adequace of public liability insurance and dangerous and unsafe buildings and sites removed/sealed off	Staff	5		23/04/25

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25	Buildings and Structures	Loss or damage	2	3	6	Town Clerk to ensure adequate records held and all asset registers regularly reviewed and updated. Weekly checks undertaken by Ops Team. Reported back to Council via committee	Town Clerk/Staff	5		23/04/25
26	Buildings and Structures	Lack of maintenance	2	3	6	Major project to modernise town hall underway. Ops Team to manage appropriate repairs. Council to provide repairs and maintenance budgets	Council/Staff	5		23/04/25
27	Buildings and Structures	Lack of budget planning for lifecycle of leases	2	3	6	Ensure that budgets reflect the end position on leases to ensure that leases/buildings are handed back as required	Council/Staff	5	Motte & Bailey lease will require making good site - expires in 2038	23/04/25
22	Land	Risk or damage to property or individuals	2	2	4	Review adequace of public liability insurance and dangerous and unsafe land sealed off	Staff	2		23/04/25
23	Land	Loss or damage	1	3	3	Town Clerk to ensure adequate records held and all asset registers regularly reviewed and updated. Weekly checks undertaken by Ops Team. Reported back to Council via committee	Town Clerk/Staff	2		23/04/25

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28	Plant	Risk or damage to property or individuals	1	2	2	Review adequace of public liability insurance and dangerous plant not used/sealed off	Town Clerk/Staff	1		23/04/25
29	Plant	Loss or damage	1	2	2	Weekly checks undertaken by Ops Team. Reported back to Council via committee	Staff	1		23/04/25
20	Playground and equipment	Loss or damage	2	2	4	Annual RoSPA check on all playground equipment. Ops Team are trained at low level repairs and weekly inspections of all playparks undertaken. Reported back to Council via committee	Staff	2		23/04/25
21	Playground and equipment	Risk or damage to property or individuals	2	2	4	Review adequace of public liability insurance and dangerous and unsafe equipment removed/sealed off	Staff	2		23/04/25
Business Continuity										
54	Organisation	No structure in place for business continuinty	1	3	3	Review appropriate policies and working arrangements. Learn from lessons from Covid-19	All	1		23/04/25

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55	Organisation	Major incident e.g. flooding, civil unrest, fire, bomb	1	3	3	Review appropriate policies and working arrangements. Keep up dated with Powys Emergency Planning	All	1		23/04/25
Finance										
14	Allowances	Incorrect payment of allowances	1	1	1	Council to review all council allowances at Annual Meeting in line with IRPW report. Town Clerk to monitor expenditure	Council/Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
31	Audit	Failure to meet audit timetable and requirements	1	3	3	RFO to advise on timetables and gathering documentation. Internal audit annually along with external audit. Council to approve annual return	Council/Town Clerk/RFO	1		23/04/25
5	Cashflow	Management of cash flow	2	3	6	Look at investments and take regular advice from RFO. Cashflow and reserve reports to council meetings monthly.	Council/RFO	5		23/04/25
15	Direct Costs	Supplier fraud	2	2	4	RFO to check all invoices before approval. Council to approve all payments before sending	Council/RFO	3		23/04/25

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16	Direct Costs	Payment is wrong or to wrong party	1	3	3	Councillors who are bank signatories to check payments before approval. RFO to check before entering payments	Councillors/RFO	2		23/04/25
17	Direct Costs	Invoice incorrectly calculcated	1	2	2	RFO to check arithmetic on invoices and review ledger to ensure correct	RFO	1		23/04/25
19	Election Costs	Big increase in precept at election years	1	2	2	Council to build into each annual budget an appropriate sum to spread out cost of elections to mimimise big rise in precept	Council/Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
18	Expenditure	No power to pay or no evidence agreement to pay	3	3	9	Council to agree all spending via resolution and minuted appropriatly. Town Clerk to provide advice on legal powers to commit expenditure	Council/Town Clerk	3	Historical payments made without approval and powers	23/04/25
8	Grants and borrowing	Grants not received when due	1	1	1	All staff when making claims to check as required - report to Council as part of project updates	Staff	1		23/04/25
9	Grants and borrowing	Repayments not made when due	1	3	3	Cashflow to be managed to prioritise contractual and legal obligations	RFO	3		23/04/25

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ID	Topic	Risk	Probability	Impact	Rating	Management or Control of Risk	Action	Residual Rating	Comments	Last Updated
32	Insurance	Inadequace insurance cover	1	3	3	RFO to advise on adequace of cover and Council to review annually	Council/RFO	1		23/04/25
6	Other income	Insufficient inome generation	2	3	6	Council to explore income and regularly review based on reports provided.	Council/Town Clerk/RFO/Staff	5	Need to maximise income generation where possible	23/04/25
7	Other income	Cash handling	1	2	2	Council to seek to limit reliance on cash but will be difficult with limited means of banking and lots of activities are cash based	Staff	2	Need to ensure that proper procedures in place for counting, handling and storage	23/04/25
2	Precept Income	Precept request not submitted	1	3	3	Council to resolve prior to deadline and RFO to dispatch	Council/Town Clerk/RFO	2		23/04/25
3	Precept Income	Not paid by billing authority	1	3	3	Town Clerk and RFO to confirm receipt of payments to appropriate committee	Council	2		23/04/25
4	Precept Income	Adequacy of precept and budget	1	3	3	Council to ensure that annual budget reflects previous and anticipated spend and also includes provision for reserves and unexpected expenditure	Council/Town Clerk/RFO	2	Training for councillors and staff on government finance	23/04/25

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ID	Topic	Risk	Probability	Impact	Rating	Management or Control of Risk	Action	Residual Rating	Comments	Last Updated
10	Reserves	Depletion and use of reserves below strategy balance	2	3	6	Council to review reserve balance each month	Council/RFO	5		23/04/25
33	Staff	Fraud or loss of cash through theft or dishonesty	1	3	3	Council to ensure adequate fidelity insurance. Staff policies and monitoring	Council/Staff	1		23/04/25
11	Staffing Costs	Salary not paid or paid wrongly	1	2	2	Council to receive updates on salaries and payments via appropriate committee. RFO to check national scales	Council/RFO	1		23/04/25
12	Staffing Costs	Tax not paid or wrong tax paid	1	2	2	RFO to keep payroll updated based on HMRC notifications	RFO	1		23/04/25
13	Staffing Costs	Pensions not paid or paid wrongly	1	2	2	RFO to keep payroll updated	RFO	1		23/04/25
Governance										
42	Computer records or website	Loss or corruption of electronic records	1	3	3	Town Clerk to ensure records are backed up, shared drive and up to date IT equipment is budgeted for	Town Clerk	1		23/04/25

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43	Computer records or website	Theft, loss or corruption via internet intrusion/cyber crime	1	3	3	Training for all staff on appropriate cyber scams and files backed up	Staff	1		23/04/25
37	Councillors	Conflict of interest	1	3	3	Councillors to be aware of Code of Conduct. Town Clerk to advise annually on interests and recording	Councillors/Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
53	Elections	Changes in membership results in different priorities	1	3	3	Council to approve strategic plan which sets direction and priorities for the entire term	Council	1		23/04/25
41	Financial records and controls	Inadequate processes	1	3	3	Regular checks and reviews of processes. Processes reviewed annually via audit process	Staff	1		23/04/25
34	Legal Powers	Illegal activty or payment	1	3	3	Training for councillors and Town Clerk as to legal powers. Town Clerk to advise prior to decision making	Council/Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
35	Legal Powers	Statutory requirements and duties missed	1	3	3	Town Clerk to review procedures and processes and keep up to date	Town Clerk	1		23/04/25

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36	Legal Powers	Decision making without authority	2	3	6	Town Clerk to advise on decision making authority. Councillors to keep up to date with training. Scheme of Delegation and appropriate Terms of Reference in place	Council/Town Clerk	3		23/04/25
40	Minutes	Accurate, signed and legal	1	3	3	Council to approve minutes at following meeting. Chair at that meeting to sign. Signed copies kept secure	Council/Chairs/Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
44	Protection of third parties	Damage to third parties via data protection breach due to actions by council/staff	1	3	3	Review adequace of public liability insurance and review of all policies relating to data protection. Training for all staff	Town Clerk/RFO	1		23/04/25
38	Records - general	Theft or loss through fire or damage	2	2	4	Council to ensure that adequate filing facilities. All staff to keep records safe and in appropriate places	Council/Staff	2	Historical documents in Town Hall need sorting and archiving	23/04/25
39	Records - general	Non-compliance with statutory public access to records	1	3	3	Training for staff and provision of adequate website in line with statutory requirements	Town Clerk	1		23/04/25
Health and Safety										

ID	Topic	Risk	Probability	Impact	Rating	Management or Control of Risk	Action	Residual Rating	Comments	Last Updated
45	All persons	Premises, equipment and building safety	2	3	6	Risk assessments undertaken and appropriate signage in place. Council to make decisions with regard to maintenance and appropriate works undertaken	All	5		23/04/25
46	All persons	Insufficient expertise	2	3	6	Commission third party professional Health and Safety advisors	All	3		23/04/25
47	All persons	Damage, loss, injury or fatality t persons	1	3	3	Review adequace of public liability insurance. Appropriate training. Council to make decisions in timely manner. Review of H&S policy annually	Council	2		23/04/25
48	Buildings and Structures	Lack of compliance paperwork	1	3	3	Staff to ensure that all compliance paperwork is completed. Appropriate copies provided to Town Clerk for storage	Staff	1		23/04/25
Personnel										
49	Capacity	Insufficient staff capacity to deliver Council business	2	2	4	Council to ensure staffing capacity is appropriate with Town Clerk	Council/Town Clerk	3	Current down a member of staff in office	23/04/25

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50	Capacity	Untrained or unskilled staff	1	2	2	Monitor training and development via annual appraisals. Training budget available to upskill	Town Clerk/Staff	1		23/04/25
51	Welfare	Loss of key personnel	2	3	6	Line managers to monitor staff hours, health, stress, training. Annual appraisals and regular 1-1s. Team Meetings. Town Clerk to keep Council updated	Council/Town Clerk	4		23/04/25
52	Welfare	Inability to deliver key services due to loss or long term absence	1	3	3	Line managers to monitor staff hours, health, stress, training. Annual appraisals and regular 1-1s. Ensure that workload is spread out in event of absence	Council/Town Clerk	2		23/04/25
Reputational										
58	Conduct	Misconduct, unprofessional behaviour, or social media misuse can reflect poorly on the council.	1	3	3	Code of Conduct training for councillors and appropriate training for staff.	All	1		22/05/25
59	Conflict between staff and councillors	Public or recorded tensions can project an image of dysfunction or poor leadership.	1	3	3	Clarify roles/responsibilities, enforce respect protocols, and seek mediation if needed.	All	1		22/05/25

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ID	Topic	Risk	Probability	Impact	Rating	Management or Control of Risk	Action	Residual Rating	Comments	Last Updated
60	Failure to Deliver	Repeated delays or cancellations may reduce community trust in the council's capability.	2	3	6	Set realistic targets and communicate challenges early.	All	3		22/05/25
56	News & Media	Inaccurate, misleading, or critical reporting in local or national media may damage the council's reputation.	1	3	3	Maintain good relationships with local press, designate media spokespersons, and prepare reactive media statements.	All	1		22/05/25
57	Transparency	Poor record-keeping, opaque decision-making, or failure to respond to FOI requests may erode trust.	1	3	3	Maintain robust governance procedures and publish decisions/minutes promptly.	All	1		22/05/25