

SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL
RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY 2023
 (This Policy was reviewed by the full Council at its AGM held on 15 May 2024)

AREA	RISK	LEVEL	INTERNAL CONTROLS (AND AGREED IMPROVEMENTS)
ASSETS	Protection of physical assets owned by the Council: Leisure Centre Church Road Hall Grove Hall Mess Room Garage at Broomfield Sports Ground Sports Pavilion Parks Store (former public toilets) Sports Pavilion and Squash Courts Security Stores, Swanscombe Park Bowls Pavilion and Toilet Block Knockhall Changing Rooms Four garages, Swanscombe Park Heritage Community Hall Town Council Offices and Community Hall Community Cafe	L	Buildings insured and where appropriate contents. Value increased annually by RPI.
	Security of buildings, equipment etc.	L	Alarm on Leisure Centre, Council offices, Parks Mess Room and Former Toilet Block store. Contents insured.
	Maintenance of buildings etc	L	External maintenance and grounds maintenance of is responsibility of the Council. Ad-hoc maintenance on other buildings. Electrical and safety equipment maintenance in place on all properties. GCLL has responsibility of internal maintenance of Leisure Centre.
FINANCE	Banking	L	Bulk of investment is handled by Council. Investment decisions made by the Town Council.
	Risk of consequential loss of income	L	Insurance cover. Business interruption insurance cover in place of £120,000. Loss of non-negotiable money and other money covered under insurance policy.
	Loss of cash through theft or dishonesty	L	Receipts issued. Cash kept in locked containers and safe. Banked monthly by ATC/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
	Financial controls and records	L	Monthly reconciliation prepared by RFO and reported to Council. Three signatories on cheques and direct debits (Town Clerk or ATC/RFO and 2 councillors). Cheque stubs initialled by councillors. Updated financial regulations in place following the repeal of Section

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			150(5) of the LGA 1972 with increased internal controls. Internal and external audit.
	Comply with Customs and Excise Regulations	L	Use help line when necessary. VAT payments and claims calculated by RFO. Internal and external auditor to provide double check.
	Sound budgeting to underlie annual precept	L	Finance & General Purposes Committee and Council receive detailed budgets in the late autumn. Precept derived annual estimates. Expenditure against budget reported to every Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
	Complying with borrowing restrictions	L	No new borrowing likely at present
LIABILITY	Risk to third party, property or individuals	L	Insurance in place. Parks and Open spaces checked daily. Health & Safety Assessments carried out annually on play equipment. Trees investigated when damage reported. Contractors issued with Notice to Contractors which stipulates health and safety and insurance requirements.
	Legal liability as consequence of asset ownership (especially leisure centre, playgrounds open spaces.)	L	Insurance in place. Integrated Management and Quality Management System operated by GCLL for Leisure Centre. H&S checklist operated in parks and open spaces. Daily checks of playgrounds. Written records kept. Annual safety checks on play grounds.
EMPLOYER LIABILITY	Comply with Employment Law	L	Membership of various national and regional bodies including Employers Organisation.
	Comply with Inland Revenue requirements	L	Regular advice from Inland Revenue and Sage. Internal and external auditor carry out annual checks.
	Safety of Staff and visitors	L	Security door, Alarm and CCTV camera fitted to restrict access to Council Offices. Secure locks on other properties. Health and Safety procedures in place, COSHH procedures in place. Asbestos register held. All health and safety matters regularly monitored.
LEGAL LIABILITY	Ensuring activities are within legal powers	L	Clerk clarifies legal position on any new proposal. Legal advice to be sought where necessary.
	Proper and timely reporting via the Minutes	L	Council meets on a nine-weekly cycle, and receives and approves Minutes of meetings held in interim. Minutes are available to press and public via the Council office and on the council's website.

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	Proper document control	L	Leases and legal documents are kept in Fire Proof Cabinet. Other data storage complies with the Data Protection Act.
COUNCILLOR PROPRIETY	Registers of Interests and gifts and hospitality in place	L	Register of interest completed. Members asked to declare interests in relation to items on the agendas of every meeting. Gifts and hospitality register is available at each Council meeting.
INSURANCE	Public Liability	L	Cover in place to £10,000,000
	Hirer's Liability	L	Cover in place to £2,000,000
	Employer's Liability	L	Cover in place to £10,000,000
	Fidelity Guarantee	L	Covers members and employees to the sum of £500,000. Recommended formula in line with total balances plus 50% Annual Precept
	Personal Accident	L	Employees and Members covered to a capital sum of £115,000
	Legal Expenses	L	Limit of Indemnity £100,000 for the following: Employment disputes and compensation awards Legal defence Property protection and bodily injury Tax Protection Statutory Licence Protection
PRECEPT	Annual precept not the result of proper detailed consideration	L	Budget setting process commences each September. All Committees requested for details of likely expenditure. Financial risk assessments reviewed annually to ensure correct long term financial risks are appropriately budgeted for. RFO undertakes detailed analysis of likely expenditure and income to produce draft annual estimates. Estimates considered by Finance and General Purposes Committee before being endorsed by full Council.
	Inaccurate monitoring of performance	L	Members provided with up to date budget monitoring at each Finance and General Purposes Committee.
PAYROLL	Loss of data on PC due to system fault	L	Data is backed up daily by external IT contractor. Maintenance agreement in place with Sage. Program provides legislative updates automatically.
	Loss of services of employee	L	Vacancy is advertised immediately (if necessary) and request help from existing remaining employees to cover temporary loss. More than 1 member of staff is trained to undertake payroll.
COMPUTER DATA	Loss of computer data	L	Data on server is backed up daily to secure off-site storage by IT contractor. Anti-virus software on all PCs.
ADMINISTRATION	Agency Advice	L	Continue with advice from KALC, SLCCCL, SEEMP, ACAS and solicitors.
ALLOTMENTS	Increase in net expenditure	L	Review allotment rents annually.
PARKS	Loss of use of play equipment	L	Continue with regular maintenance and safety checks and take unsafe equipment out of service until repairs are carried out.