

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy Number 29		
Issue No.	Date completed	Details of amendments
1	01.12.14	GP.39.12.14 – Adopted at General Purposes Committee
2	18.01.16	Reviewed at General Purpose Committee GP.50.01.16
3	06.03.17	GP.42.03.17
4	01.03.18	Finance Sub Committee review of draft amendments
5	09.01.19	Finance Sub Committee review of draft amendments
6	18.02.19	Reviewed Finance Sub-Committee recommendation at GP (18.02.19)
7	12.08.19	GP Committee to review updates – approved.
8	13.02.20	Finance Sub-Committee view of draft amendments
9	09.03.20	GP Committee reviewed updates
10	06.01.21	Finance Sub-Committee view of draft amendments
11	25.01.21	GP Committee 25.01.21
12	25.01.22	Finance Sub-Committee review
13	31.01.22	Adoption of revised Risk Management Policy
14	16.01.23	Review by General Purposes Committee GP23.01.23
15	15.05.23	Adoption by Full Council

16	27.11.23	Annual review by General Purposes Committee
17	11.12.23	Ratification and adoption by Full Council
18	16.12.24	Annual review by General Purposes Committee
19	13.01.25	Ratification by Full Council
20	15.12.25	Annual review by General Purposes Committee
21	12.01.26	Ratification by Full Council

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Uckfield Town Council is aware of its responsibility to manage risk to ensure it achieves its objectives to deliver a high quality of public services and to ensure it provides good governance.

The Council has various policies in place to ensure significant risks are controlled, reviewed and monitored. This document forms the Town Council's Risk Management Strategy, it provides an overview of risk management and how it will be monitored.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the General Purposes Committee.

The tables below detail the controls in place for the main service areas at risk

- Insurances;
- Working with others;
- Self-managed risk;

Insurances			
Risk Identification			
<u>Insurance Cover</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Review Date</u>
Protection of physical assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buildings, and contents (where applicable)• Business interruption• Stock• Computer Equipment• UTC Building CCTV (on premise)• Town Centre CCTV• Terrorism• Some specified Grounds equipment	Company: Commercial Combined QBE Ins (Europe) Ltd Policy No: Period of cover: 19 October 2025 - 18 October 2026 Y126862QBE0125A Optional Marsh Commercial Claims Assist Combined Engineering (British Engineering Services Contract No. EIP000843 Flood Excess Insurance (Signal Box) Policy Excess Ltd (Policy No. FE270416		August to October 2026 Arrangement reviewed annually by the Town Clerk/ Facilities & Compliance Manager

<p>Public Liability Insurance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers Liability • Libel and Slander • Motor Vehicles • Fidelity Guarantee • Personal Accident • Legal Expenses • Money • Civic Regalia • Litter Bins • Bus Shelters • Tennis courts to include Victoria • Large Grounds Equipment • Town Centre CCTV 	<p>Flood Excess (Bridge Cottage) Policy Excess Ltd (Policy No. FE270418</p> <p>Cyber Cover ESN0040117213</p> <p>Company: Zurich Municipal</p> <p>Policy No: YLL-272007-6913</p> <p>Period of cover 20 June 2025- 19 June 2026</p> <p>Part of three year agreement to 2027.</p>	<p>Public Liability £15M</p> <p>Products Liability £10M</p> <p>Employers Liability £10M</p> <p>Hirers Liability £2M</p> <p>Libel and Slander £250,000</p> <p>Fidelity Guarantee £2M</p> <p>Personal accident cover (see specifics of policy)</p> <p>Motor vehicles Comprehensive cover</p>	<p>Reviewed annually by Assistant Town Clerk & RFO</p>
<p>Internal controls</p>			
<p>Up to date register of assets</p>		<p>Review of Fixed Asset Register undertaken as part of financial year end.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Reviewed at Full Council in December and January each year as part of annual review of Asset Management Plan.</p>

Regular maintenance arrangements for physical assets.		Tree survey records are now being uploaded to software purchased called OTISS (which sits alongside Pear (the Town Council's mapping system). Plan to add all street furniture and assets in due course.	
		Budgets in place, maintained by staff and outside contractors in line with annual building maintenance programme.	Ongoing. Building Maintenance Programme reviewed annually as part of budget setting process.
Annual review of risk and adequacy of cover Ensuring robustness in insurance provider	Full market review of insurance cover undertaken by brokers in 2025.		Tender for brokers to be undertaken in 2026.
Ensuring we comply with new requirements set out in the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)	A Town Council may appoint an independent Data Protection Officer although this is not compulsory.	Data Protection Toolkit obtained ready for delivery in line with Assertion 10 in 2025 Practitioners Guide.	

Ensuring we have adequate network security and firewalls in place	Uckfield Town Council Civic Centre Wi-Fi. A feature was added to the public Wi-Fi, which each client has to accept prior to joining the Wi-Fi, giving protection for Uckfield Town Council from misuse.	Redway Networks	Wi-Fi was upgraded in August 2023, which saw an upgrade of the infrastructure within the Civic Centre and Victoria Pavilion.
	Uckfield Town Council has installed a tailor-made Network fire wall with VPN capabilities to further strengthen network security and only allow traffic that is pre-authorised.	Redway Networks	Further works were undertaken to security in 2022 with annual updates undertaken since.
Internal audit assurance			
<p>Internal auditor testing includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review of internal controls in place and their documentation. ✓ Review of management arrangements regarding insurance cover. ✓ Testing of specific internal controls and report findings to the General Purposes Committee. 			

Working with others**Risk Identification**

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Review Date</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Security of vulnerable buildings, amenities or equipment	Civic Centre, The Hub, West Park and Victoria Pavilions and the garage store alarmed and maintained by outside contractors.	Security Alarms - Kaisu Period of cover: March 2025 – March 2026	All security alarm companies to be accredited to the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board(SSAIB) and or the National Security Inspectorate (NSI). The intruder alarm system was inspected in September 2025.
	Civic Centre, The Source, West Park Pavilion and Victoria Pavilion and Foresters Hall maintained by outside contractors.	Fire Alarms – Pyrotec April 2025 - April 2026	Full annual fire risk assessments were undertaken by Pyrotech in December 2025.
		Redway Networks/Focus telephones/	Telephone system was moved from analogue to digital on 16 Jan 2023.
		Brighton CCTV	Victoria Pavilion now connected to enhance CCTV provision. Annual inspection of cameras and repairs undertaken – December 2024, which resulted in an upgrade across the two sites.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of services being carried out by others	<u>Details</u> Town Centre CCTV	<u>Comments</u> Town Centre CCTV system upgraded 2024. Six cameras. in partnership with Sussex Police. Joint Data Controller with Sussex Police. ISA signed Nov 2024. New maintenance SLA in place for Town CCTV with ChromaVision from April 2024 for 3yrs. Gold Service.	<u>Review Date</u> Full review undertaken 2023 and 2024. One camera due to be upgraded December 2025.	
	Civic Centre/ Victoria Pavilion	Civic Centre own CCTV system – Brighton CCTV		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Banking arrangements, including borrowing	Banking arrangements reviewed every two years by Finance Sub-committee.	Annual review undertaken of the Town Council’s borrowing and investments by Finance Sub-Committee, and subsequently reported to GP Committee.	Next reviews: Annual Investment Strategy Mar 2026. Fixed Term Bond Jun 2026
		Credit card/Worldpay transactions	Changed provider from Worldpay to UTP (Barclaycard) in August 2024.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Professional services (architects, project managers etc.)	To use specialist when required.		Project by project basis. According to procurement regulations.	

Internal controls by Internal Auditor

- Standing Orders
- Annual review of contracts
- Clear statements of management responsibility for each service.
- Adoption and adherence to codes of practice
- Arrangements to detect and deter fraud and/or corruption
- Regular bank reconciliation, independently reviewed.

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Internal audit assurance

Internal Auditor testing includes:

- ✓ Review of internal controls in place and their documentation.
- ✓ Review of management arrangements regarding insurance cover.
- ✓ Testing of specific internal controls and reporting of findings to the General Purposes Committee and Full Council.

Self-managed risk

- Regular scrutiny of financial records and proper arrangement for the approval of expenditure;
- Strengthened monthly member audit procedures, and incorporation of all bank reconciliations, with quarterly sign off by members;
- Regular budget monitoring statements;
- Minutes properly numbered and paginated with a master copy for safe keeping
- Regular returns to HM Revenue and Customs; contracts of employment for all staff, systems of updating records for any changes in relevant legislation
- Regular returns of VAT, relevant officer training. VAT review undertaken early March 2025;
- Procedures for dealing with and monitoring grants made;
- Procedure in place for recording and monitoring Members' interests and gift and hospitality received;
- Adoption of codes of conduct for Members and employees;
- Developing systems of performance measurement;
- Documented procedures to deal with enquiries from the public;
- Documented procedure to deal with responses to consultation requests;
- Dual member authorisation of BACs payments entered by Assistant Town Clerk for supplier payments (members have access to authorisation only and will not be able to enter funds nor issue payments);
- The paying-in and withdrawal of funds is processed through the Post Office;
- Revised procedures for Luxfords Restaurant opening and close down, and review of movement and security with holding of cash;
- Two members of staff cashing up from restaurant each day and audited by office.

Internal audit assurance

- ✓ Review of internal controls in place and their documentation
- ✓ Review of minutes to ensure legal powers in place recorded and correctly applied
- ✓ Testing of income and expenditure from minutes to cashbook, from bank statements to cashbook, from, minutes to statements etc. including petty cash transactions
- ✓ Review and testing of arrangements to prevent and detect fraud and corruption
- ✓ Testing of disclosures
- ✓ Testing of specific internal controls and reporting of findings to the General Purposes Committee
- ✓ Publication of information in line with Local Government Transparency Code on Town Council website;
- ✓ Town Council's financial requirements met on website;
- ✓ Annual precept resulted from an adequate budgetary process;
- ✓ Salaries and allowances paid in accordance with council approvals and PAYE and NI requirements;
- ✓ Asset and investment requirements complete and accurate;
- ✓ Periodic and year end bank reconciliations properly carried out;