

Assessing Risks

Every risk should be assessed to help determine how much attention is given to the particular event. This is done by ranking the risks with a set of scores determined by their individual likelihood and impact rating.

The City of London Corporation uses a 4 point scale and the multiple of the likelihood and impact gives us the risk score, which is used to determine the risk profile. See the 'Risk Scoring' section below on how risks should be scored.

The following chart shows the area the risk will fall in to dependant on its score, with red being the most severe and green being the least. The scores within the chart are multiples of the likelihood and impact.

e.g. (Likelihood of) **4** x (Impact of) **4** = (Risk Score of) **16**

Impact scores increase by a factor of 2, thus having greater weighting in comparison to the Likelihood scores.

		Impact			
X		Minor (1)	Serious (2)	Major (4)	Extreme (8)
Likelihood	Likely (4)	4	8	16	32
	Possible (3)	3	6	12	24
	Unlikely (2)	2	4	8	16
	Rare (1)	1	2	4	8

COL risk matrix

What the colours mean (as a guide):

- Red (dark grey) - Urgent action required to reduce rating
- Amber (light grey) - Action required to maintain or reduce rating
- Green (mid grey) - Action required to maintain rating.

Risk scoring

Risk scoring is purely subjective. Perceptions of a risk will vary amongst individuals and hence it is better to score the risk collectively than leave it to one person's judgement.

Definitions

1. **Original/Gross score:** the level of risk perceived before any mitigating actions/controls have been put in place.
2. **Current/Net score:** the level of risk currently perceived by the user/management, taking in-to account any controls.
3. **Target score:** the preferable score for the risk to be in order for it to be manageable, thinking in term of what resources are available, and the ability of the Corporation to directly manage the risk once external factors are considered.

Risk scoring method

Risks are scored in terms of likelihood and impact

→ Risk should be scored by first determining how likely it is to occur (**Likelihood**)

→ It should then be rated according to the worst case scenario if it should arise (**Impact**).

Likelihood scoring guide

The criterion below is not exhaustive and intended to be used as a guide. **You will need to come to a management consensus when scoring risks.**

	Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely
	1	2	3	4
Criteria	Less than 10%	10 – 40%	40 – 75%	More than 75%
Probability	Has happened rarely/never before	Unlikely to occur	Fairly likely to occur	More likely to occur than not
Time period	Unlikely to occur in a 10 year period	Likely to occur within a 10 year period	Likely to occur once within a one year period	Likely to occur once within three months
Numerical	Less than one chance in a hundred thousand (<10-5)	Less than one chance in ten thousand (<10-4)	Less than one chance in a thousand (<10-3)	Less than one chance in a hundred (<10-2)

Impact scoring guide

The criterion below is not exhaustive and intended to be used as a guide. **You will need to come to a management consensus when scoring risks.**

		Minor	Serious	Major	Extreme
		1	2	4	8
THREATS	Service Delivery / Performance	Minor impact on service, typically up to 1 Day	Service Disruption 2-5 Days	Service Disruption > 1 week to 4 weeks	Service Disruption > 4 weeks
	Financial	Financial loss up to 5% of Budget	Financial loss up to 10% of Budget	Financial loss up to 20% of Budget	Financial loss up to 35% of Budget
	Reputation	Isolated service user/stakeholder complaints contained within business unit/division	Adverse local media coverage/multiple service user/stakeholder complaints	Adverse national media coverage 1-3 days	National publicity more than 3 days. Possible resignation of leading Member or Chief Officer.
	Legal / Statutory	Litigation claim or fine less than £5,000	Litigation claim or fine between £5,000 and £50,000	Litigation claim or fine between £50,000 and £500,000	Multiple civil or criminal suits. Litigation claim or fine in excess of £500,000
	Safety / Health	Minor incident including injury to one or more individuals	Significant Injury or illness causing short term disability to one or more person	Major injury or illness/disease causing long term disability to one or more person.	Fatality or life threatening illness / disease (e.g. Mesothelioma) to one or more persons

	Objectives	Failure to achieve Team plan objectives	Failure to achieve one or more service plan objective	Failure to achieve a Strategic plan objective	Failure to achieve a major corporate objective
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