

Risk Register - Leisure Contract ASP Year 3 (Serco / More Leisure) - updated 12 Jan 2026

Ref	Title	Risk Description	Opp / Threat	Cause	Consequence	Risk Treatment	Date Raised	Owner	Gross			Current			Target			Comments	Control / Mitigation Description	Date Due	Action Status	% Progress	Action Owner
									P	I	Score	P	I	Score	P	I	Score						
1	Deterioration of service	Deterioration of the standard delivered (customer service and maintenance) over the lifetime of the contract e.g. cleanliness	Threat	Provider focuses elsewhere. Turbulence in the external environment.	Reduced level of service for local people and reduced participation; reputational damage	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	1	4	4	1	4	4	1	4	4	-	Ensure that there is a robust contract in place, regular monitoring take places and a strong client team. Quarterly maintenance and monthly client meetings are in place. Programme of regular client audits. Requirement to achieve Quest Excellent by the end of Year 2.	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	Hagan Lewisman / James Baughan
2	Financial	The external provider is unable to achieve their business forecasts and asks for a change in contractual arrangements	Threat	External factors such as pandemics, utility pricing or a bid that was unrealistic	Financial impact to OCC and/or service reduction to cut costs that impact service quality	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	3	4	12	3	4	12	2	4	8	Work is being undertaken to understand Serco's reasons behind its lower than expected financial performance, using the client report to challenge and interrogate figures, and mitigations such as increasing fees and charges above inflation have been put forward; ongoing discussions with Serco.	Ensure robust contract in place and strong, well skilled client team. Work with Serco to ensure options are presented to reduce/remove any pressure to the Council. Regular monitoring. Open book accounting. Internal officers meeting.	31/03/26	Ongoing	70%	Emma Burson / Hagan Lewisman / James Baughan
3	Invest to saves	Invest to saves proposals not being accepted, or effectively delivered	Threat	If invest to save proposals are not deliverable either practically or politically; disagreement on terms	Financial impact to assumed management fee	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	1	4	4	1	3	3	1	3	3	Final investment works to complete by Summer 2026.	Delivery programme in place; regular communications with operator; confirmation of no impact to management fee received.	31/03/26	Ongoing	80%	James Baughan
4	Contract management	Robust contract management not being in place for the contract; misalignment of contractual documents	Threat	Lack of resource and prioritisation; old versions of documents in use	Contractor not adhering to contractual obligations; productive relationship not forming with the operator	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	2	4	8	1	4	4	1	4	4	External audit taking place early 2026.	Ensure that adequate time and focus is given to ensuring contractual obligations are fulfilled. Client monitoring arrangements in place (as item 1 above); internal officers group; final contract docs agreed.	31/03/26	Ongoing	80%	Hagan Lewisman / James Baughan
5	Inclusive access	Pricing and concessions are not effective at increasing usage in target groups	Threat	Operator focusses on full paying customers	Leisure centres not playing their role in tackling inequalities; reputational damage	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	3	4	12	2	4	8	1	4	4	Bonus concessions maintained in current round of fees/charges discussions; kept low to minimise risk to most vulnerable customers; ASP includes programmes to widen access.	Concessions have been shaped through dialogue. Changes may need to be made to improve the concessionary offer.	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	Hagan Lewisman / James Baughan
6	Partnership	Effective partnership not formed with the new operator	Threat	Poor contract management; ineffective governance; poor communication	Contract does not deliver its target outcomes	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	2	3	6	1	3	3	1	3	3	Strategic Partnership Board due to commence from Feb 2026.	Well-designed governance; good communication, regular meetings and establishing good behaviours with Serco management team.	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	Hagan Lewisman
7	Health and safety, and compliance	Issues on sites around health and safety of customers or staff	Threat	Poor systems of health and safety governance	Injuries or fatalities; reputational damage	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	2	5	10	1	4	4	1	4	4	External Right Directions H&S audits scheduled each year.	Client meetings and inspections; external inspections including Quest and Right Directions H&S audits.	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	James Baughan
8	Misalignment of Council priorities	Contractor not understanding and aligning with Council's values, contract and priorities; focusing on commercial over active communities (incl mismatch between net zero council 2030 and net zero Oxford 2040 vs Serco's 2050 target)	Threat	Poor working relationship and communications; lack of clear energy / carbon reduction strategy across sites	Contract not delivering active communities outcomes; reputational damage	Reduce	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	4	4	16	2	4	8	2	3	6	Energy management plan received and to be discussed with Serco.	Client meetings and partnership working.	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	James Baughan
9	Accessibility	Failure to meet accessibility requirements	Threat	Equipment not being replaced or well maintained; customer information in inadequate format	Reduced participation of customers with accessibility needs; reputational damage	Reduce	12/02/25	Hagan Lewisman	3	5	15	3	4	12	3	4	12	Barton lift replacement completed Oct 2025; Ferry couches replaced end of 2025.	Client and maintenance meetings; stronger emphasis on some R&M items.	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	Jonathan Wright / Hagan Lewisman / James Baughan
10	Local government reorganisation and devolution	Risk to contract as local government is reorganised	Threat	Government policy	Uncertainty on client arrangements or alignment of contract	Accept	02/01/25	Hagan Lewisman	5	3	15	4	3	12	3	3	9	LGR bid submitted Nov 2025, including a contribution from the leisure team	Keep updated with local gov reorganisation plans; contract likely to be transferred to new authority	31/03/27	Ongoing	90%	Justin Zizys / Hagan Lewisman
11	Unknown external factors	Unknown risks such as future pandemics	Threat	Unidentified risks	Unknown	Accept	01/04/24	Hagan Lewisman	3	3	9	3	3	9	3	3	9	-	Business Continuity Plan in place (Serco)	31/03/26	Ongoing	90%	Hagan Lewisman

Risk Identification

Risks should be identified that may affect the Council's ability to achieve its business objectives, execute its strategies successfully or limit its ability to exploit opportunities.

Risks can be identified through a number of methods, including:

- A 'brainstorming' session or workshop with the whole management team and relevant stakeholders
- Interviews or questionnaires with key stakeholders
- Meetings with smaller groups of people

There are a wide range of methods available that can be used to identify and understand risks. The method that you select will depend upon the type of risk(s) that you are dealing with but typically a management team workshop is the method most commonly used.

Additionally, existing sources of information could help inform this stage. Some examples are listed

- Service / corporate plans, strategies and objectives
- Existing risk registers
- Risks or issues raised by internal audit or other scrutiny body
- Risks identified through budget setting processes
- Health & safety risk assessments
- Business continuity risk assessments
- Partnership, programme or project documentation (e.g. business case or project risk register)
- Experience of those participating in the risk identification process

It is the responsibility of those identifying risks to decide which sources of information they should consult. This may be one or more of the sources listed above or it could be something else you think is

As well as direct risks to the achievement of our objectives it is important to think broadly about uncertainties that may have an impact on the organisation. The diagram shown below illustrates a variety of different risk themes, expanding on PESTLE prompts, which the organisation could face.



Once identified, the risks need to be described in sufficient detail and recorded in a consistent format to support effective decision making on the way that the risk is managed. It is crucial for risks to be defined properly at this stage. Failure to do so can result in confusion about the exact nature of the risk, ineffective risk controls being implemented, or the risk analysis being over or underestimated.

The description of the risk should include the following elements:

- Risk Title – a short and concise header for the risk
- Description – expanding on the risk title outlining the situation or event that exposes us to a risk.
- Risk Cause – also known as the trigger event. Situations or factors which result in the risk becoming a reality.
- Risk Effect – the likely consequences if the risk materialises (The negative impact - consider worst likely)

When describing a risk try not to describe the impact of the risk as the risk itself or define risks with statements which are the converse of objectives. Focus upon the uncertain event that would result in



Types of Risk to consider	
Strategic / Commercial	
1	Under performance to specification
2	Management will under perform against expectations
3	Collapse of contractors
4	Insolvency of promoter
5	Failure of suppliers to meet contractual commitments (quality, cost, time)
6	Insufficient capital
7	Market fluctuations
8	Trade/Banking crises
9	Fraud/theft
10	Partnership failing to deliver desired outcomes
11	Situation is not insurable (cost of insurance outweighs the benefit)
Economic / Financial / Market	
1	Exchange rate fluctuation
2	Interest rate instability
3	Inflation
4	Shortage of working capital
5	Failure to meet projected revenue targets
6	Market developments will adversely affect plans
Legal and Regulatory	
1	New or changed legislation may invalidate assumptions upon which the activity is based
2	Failure to obtain appropriate approval e.g. planning consent
3	Unforeseen inclusion of contingent liabilities
4	Loss of intellectual property rights
5	Failure to achieve satisfactory contractual arrangements
6	Unexpected regulatory controls or licencing requirements
7	Changes in tax or tariff structure
Organisational / Management / Human factors	
1	Management incompetence
2	Inadequate corporate policies
3	Inadequate adoption of management practices
4	Poor leadership
5	Key personnel have inadequate authority to fulfil their roles
6	Poor staff selection procedures
7	Lack of clarity over roles and responsibilities
8	Vested interests creating conflict and compromising overall aims
9	Individual or group interests given unwarranted priority
10	Personality clashes
11	Indecision or inappropriate decision making
12	Lack of operational support
13	Inadequate or inaccurate information
14	Health and Safety constraints
Political	
1	Change of government policy
2	Change of government
3	War and disorder
4	Adverse public opinion/media intervention
Environmental	
1	Natural disasters
2	Storms, flooding, tempests
3	Pollution incidents
4	Transport problems (including aircraft/vehicle collisions)

Technical / Operational / Infrastructure	
1	Inadequate design
2	Professional negligence
3	Human error/incompetence
4	Infrastructure failure
5	Operation lifetime lower than expected
6	Increased dismantling/decommissioning costs
7	Safety being compromised
8	Performance failure
9	Residual maintenance problems
10	Scope creep
11	Unclear expectations
12	Breaches in security/information security
13	Lack or inadequacy of business continuity

Risk Evaluation and Prioritisation

Once risks have been identified the risk matrix is the main tool for prioritising risks so we can establish which risks are most significant and therefore are in need of greater attention and resources. It also allows us to compare different types of risk with each other across the council.

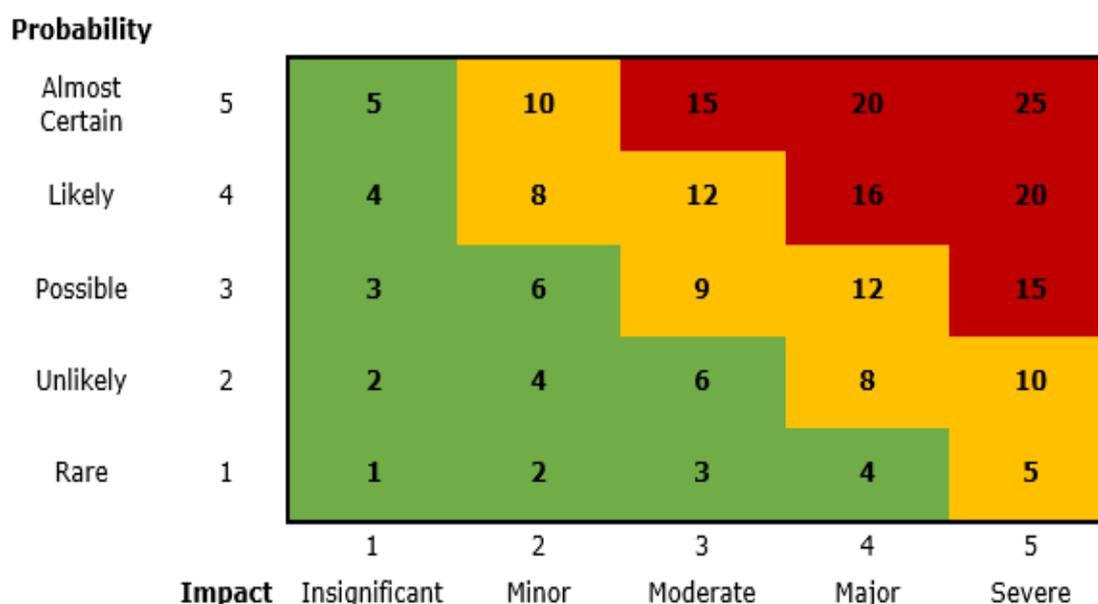
Each risk should be analysed using a five by five matrix for (1) the likelihood it will happen and (2) the impact if it did occur. This assessment should be made on three different basis:

- Gross risk – risk level if existing key controls and mitigations were not in place or not effective.
- Current risk – risk level after existing controls and mitigations are taken into consideration.
- Target risk – anticipated risk level following the introduction of planned controls and mitigations.

Assessing the gross risk allows consideration of the dependency the organisation has upon the existing key controls and informs decisions around risk treatment, and selection of an appropriate target risk level, considered in the next section of this toolkit. It is often helpful to consider the Current Risk first, and then ask yourself what the impact and likelihood of the risk might be if the key controls

It is the risk owner’s responsibility to ensure the controls they believe are reducing the risk are effective and are working in practice. Controls that are not yet in place should not be considered

Each identified risk should then be plotted onto the risk matrix.



When considering the likelihood of a risk happening you should select the number from 1 to 5 from the risk matrix that you think it will be over the next 12 months (it can be longer or shorter; some risks in the Strategic Risk Register are better considered over 3 to 5 years, some operational risks will be considered over 3 to 6 months). This score will require an element of judgement when considering how

- Has this event happened before in the Council? (How frequently?) Has this event happened elsewhere? (How)
- How likely is it that one or more of the causes/ triggers of the event will occur?
- Has anything happened recently that makes the event more or less likely to occur?

The following tables provide some support in quantifying the risk in terms of likelihood and impact.

Risk Probability Assessment Criteria

Scale	Description	Likelihood of Occurrence	Probability of Occurrence
1	Rare	1 in 10 years	The event may occur in certain circumstances

2	Unlikely	1 in 3 years	The event could occur
3	Possible	1 in 2 years	The event should occur
4	Likely	Annually	The event will probably occur
5	Almost certain	Monthly	The event is expected to occur or occurs regularly

When you select the impact you should give consideration to the factors outlined in the risk matrix. For example, if the risk you are scoring has a low financial impact but a high impact on our reputation then you would select the most appropriate number between 1 and 5 that relates to the level of reputational

Risk Impact Assessment Criteria

	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Financial	<£50k per annum	£50k - £250k per annum	£250k - £500k per annum	£500k - £750k per annum	>£750K per annum
Service Delivery	No impact to service quality, limited disruption to operations	Minor impact to service quality, minor service standards are not met, short term disruption to operations, minor impact on a partnerships	Significant fall in service quality, major partnership relationships strained, serious disruption in service standards	Major impact to service quality, multiple service standards are not met, long term disruption to operations, multiple partnerships affected	Catastrophic fall in service quality and key service standards are not met, long term catastrophic interruption to operations, several major partnerships are affected
Reputation	Public concern restricted to local complaints which do not attract local media attention.	Minor adverse local / public / media attention and complaints	Adverse national media public attention	Serious negative national or regional criticism	Prolonged, regional & national condemnation
Compliance & Regulation	Minor breach of internal regulations, not reportable	Minor breach of external regulations, not reportable	Breach of internal regulations leading to disciplinary action Breach of external regulations, reportable	Significant breach of external regulations leading to intervention or sanctions	Major breach leading to suspension or discontinuation of business and services
Strategic	Little impact on the organisational strategy	May have an impact on achieving organisational strategy	Would impact on the organisational objectives	Would require a significant shift from current strategy and objectives	Would require a fundamental change in strategy and objectives

Risk Treatment

Once risks have been identified and scored based on current controls the next step is to decide what action needs to be taken to manage them. Generally speaking, there are four approaches to treating

Action	Description	Options
Treat / Reduce	Controlling the likelihood of the risk occurring, or controlling the impact of the consequences if the risk does occur	Reducing the likelihood of the risk occurring AND / OR Mitigating the impact if the risk does occur
Tolerate / Accept	Acknowledging that the ability to take effective action against some risks may be limited or that the cost of taking action may be disproportionate to the potential benefits gained.	The ability to take effective action against some risks may be limited or the cost of taking action may be disproportionate to the potential benefits gained in which case the risk is accepted on an "informed" basis.
Terminate / Avoid	Not undertaking the activity that is likely to trigger the risk	Changing the direction or strategy and revisiting objectives or improving channels of communication Obtaining further information from external sources or acquiring expertise Reducing the scope of the activity or adopting a familiar, proven approach Deciding not to undertake the activity likely to trigger the risk
Transfer	Handing the risk on elsewhere, either totally or in part – e.g. through insurance.	Financial instruments such as insurance, performance bonds, warranties or guarantee. Renegotiation of contract conditions for the risk to be retained by the other party. Seeking agreement on sharing the risk with the other party. Sub-contracting risk to a consultant or external suppliers. NB. It may not be possible to transfer all aspects of a risk. For example, where there is or reputational damage to the organisation.

When considering further action required to manage the risk, and indeed the appropriateness of existing controls, an assessment of treatment options should be made alongside a consideration of the Council's risk appetite and tolerance for the current level of risk.

A further consideration is the efficiency of risk treatment in relation to the cost effectiveness of the proposed actions to be taken. Firstly the cost of implementation has to be considered (time, manpower, budget, etc.). The impact expected if no action is taken, should be weighed against the cost of action and the reduction of the impact. There should be a direct benefit from the cost

Plans should then be put into place to manage the risk with key milestones identified and clear owners – ensuring that they are 'SMART' – Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time bound.

Oxford City Council has focused on the Red, Amber, Green status of risks in determining the risk appetite of the organization. Red risks are considered unacceptable and every effort must be made to

The risk appetite is reviewed periodically or when there are significant changes to the organisation. Changes to the risk appetite level would require a change to strategy and would therefore require

