

Appendix A- Identified Financial Risks 2020/21

Service Directorate	Financial Risk Ref. No.	Risk	High/ Medium/ Low	Risk Value £	%	Total Risk Assessment £
Commercialisation	FR1	Adverse possession of land/buildings (litigation costs). Protection of "Village Greens". Signs/fences need to be constructed to avoid residents claiming ownership rights.	M	35,000	25%	8,750
	FR2	Contamination clear-up costs for disposal/vacant sites	M	500,000	25%	125,000
	FR3	Difficulties in recruiting Estates Surveyors hinders the achievement of the anticipated additional commercial rent income agreed from rent reviews undertaken in the year.	L	50,000	0%	0
	FR4	Arrangements for the management of Hitchin Market following the expiry of the current contract generate a lower financial return to the Council.	H	20,000	50%	10,000
Customers	FR5	Fines for breaches of the EU General Data Protection Regulation by the Council or by NHDC outsourced providers when handling and storing data originally collected by NHDC	L	500,000	0%	0
	FR6	Bad Debt Provision may need to increase in light of the roll-out of Universal Credit and in particular the managed migration of working age housing benefit clients to Universal Credit.	M	70,000	25%	17,500
	FR7	Ransomware attack results in the write-off of IT hardware and infrastructure.	L	200,000	0%	0
	FR8	Failure to meet projected Careline sales income as a result of the loss of a corporate client or fall in the number of private clients.	H	50,000	50%	25,000
Legal & Community	FR9	District by-election	L	4,000	0%	0
	FR10	Legal team resources - requirement due to recruitment/retention issues to use temp. staff or outsource work. Additional external expertise for assistance with the delivery of key Corporate projects or Governance issues	M	100,000	25%	25,000
	FR11	Legal expertise related to employment cases	M	50,000	25%	12,500
	FR12	The Council is required to meet the cost of any award from new or ongoing judicial reviews.	H	100,000	50%	50,000
	FR13	Possible procurement challenge. Legal costs and costs of re-tendering if necessary.	L	100,000	0%	0
	FR14	Costs incurred from an increased number of prosecutions pursued in court, for example due to persistent flytipping.	M	50,000	25%	12,500
	FR15	Domestic Homicide Review – requirement for additional resources to respond	L	15,000	0%	0

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Place	FR16	The council is forced to re-tender a major contract if a contractor is unable to deliver a contract for any reason .	L	300,000	0%	0
	FR17	Increase in the net cost of recycling services due to either or all of ; adverse changes in the market prices for commodities; a reduction in the volume of recyclates collected; a change in the material composition of the recyclates collected	H	100,000	50%	50,000
	FR18	Reduction in funding from third party agency agreements for contracted grounds and/or tree maintenance works.	L	50,000	0%	0
	FR19	Costs resulting from a localised flooding event that is associated with water courses within the responsibility of NHDC to maintain.	L	50,000	0%	0
	FR20	Cost of felling and destroying trees as a result of pests and tree disease.	L	75,000	0%	0
Regulatory	FR21	Lack of resilience in delivering key statutory services, such as Environmental Health and Planning, when staff absence occurs (other than normal leave) e.g. medium/long term sickness, staff resignations, etc... increases expenditure on agency staff and / or consultancy advice to maintain service provision.	H	40,000	50%	20,000
	FR22	Usage of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless households.	M	180,000	25%	45,000
	FR23	Dangerous structures - where the Council is unable to recover the costs incurred in making the structures safe because, for example, the owner of the property is not known or the land/building is unregistered.	L	50,000	0%	0
	FR24	Specialist advice required with regard to planning applications, e.g. town centre schemes and "hostile applications".	M	100,000	25%	25,000
	FR25	Costs associated with a challenge to a decision of the Council, for example an appeal against a planning decision, judicial review or threat in advance of a planning decision, Secretary of State call in or holding direction.	H	500,000	50%	250,000
	FR26	Enforcement – costs in relation to enforcement through for example: specialist legal advice, direct action or appeal processes.	M	100,000	25%	25,000
	FR27	New duties and obligations associated with government policy, e.g. Brexit, require additional and/or specialist staff or consultancy support to deliver.	M	100,000	25%	25,000
	FR28	Local Plan: additional costs associated with progressing the Local Plan.	H	250,000	50%	125,000
	FR29	Local Plan: costs associated with a challenge to the Local Plan either from the Council or another stakeholder/authority	H	450,000	50%	225,000
	FR30	Theft of, or damage to, parking pay & display equipment	M	20,000	25%	5,000

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	FR31	Income related to planning applications is lower than the budget expectation as a result of a delay to Local Plan progress or the economic impact of Brexit.	H	250,000	50%	125,000
	FR32	Hertfordshire Home Improvement Agency fail to recover sufficient fees, based upon application throughput, resulting in additional payment requested by HCC to cover costs.	H	15,000	50%	7,500
Resources	FR33	Assumed vacancy saving within staffing payroll budgets does not materialise as a slim staffing structure reduces both employee turnover and the capacity to hold posts vacant for any significant period of time.	L	300,000	0%	0
	FR34	Breach of partial-exemption calculation for VAT	L	300,000	0%	0
	FR35	The Council's compliance contractors identify exceptional repairs and maintenance required for Council properties.	M	50,000	25%	12,500
	FR36	Localisation of Business Rates – The council is directly exposed to a range of risks including; business rates levy, safety net.	L	130,000	0%	0
	FR37	Member/Officer Indemnity Agreement is called upon	L	100,000	0%	0
	FR38	Further payments are required under MMI scheme of arrangement	L	20,000	0%	0
	FR39	Treasury Management - potential default by a counter party	L	3,000,000	0%	0
	FR40	Difficulty in recruiting Facilities Assistants results in higher expenditure on agency staff	M	10,000	25%	2,500
	FR41	Employment related risks related to outsourcing, shared services and restructuring	M	250,000	25%	62,500
	FR42	Reduced staffing capacity means that the delivery of efficiency proposals or investment projects is delayed and / or additional staffing resource must be hired externally at a cost premium to the Council.	M	50,000	25%	12,500
	FR43	Alternative arrangements are required to secure the outcomes expected from the corporate compliance contract.	H	75,000	50%	37,500
	FR44	Alternative arrangements are necessary to secure the outcomes expected from the corporate occupational health contract.	H	20,000	50%	10,000
	FR45	Relates to an environmental warranty that was provided to North Herts Homes on the transfer of the Housing stock.	L	209,000	0%	0

8,988,000

1,351,250