

Risk Management Policy and Strategy v4

Updated: March 2023

Approved by Policy Committee June 2023

Next Review March 2024

Risk Management Policy Statement

St Albans City and District Council recognises risk management is a vital activity that both underpins and forms part of our vision, and key outcomes as set out in the Council Plan.

Risk is present in everything we do. The aim of our policy and strategy is to identify, assess and manage the key areas of risk on a pro-active basis. Risk needs to be managed rather than avoided and we recognise that effective risk management can provide opportunities. The Council has an open appetite for risk. Consideration of risk should not stifle innovation.

We seek to embed risk management into the culture of the organisation and the behaviour of our people. All processes, projects and strategic decisions will consider risk and opportunity, including procurement and contracting. We will seek to ensure, as far as possible, all partnerships and third-party relationships are fully compliant with the risk management policy and strategy of the Council.

This risk management Policy Statement and supporting documentation and processes are an integrated framework that supports the Council in the effective management of risk and opportunity.

The aim of our risk management framework is to

- Be fit for purpose
- Be representative of our various activities
- Make best use of our skills and capabilities to ensure we can deliver our objectives.

For risk management to be most effective and become an enabling tool, we will ensure that we have a robust, consistent, communicated, and formalised process across the Council.

To gain a clear understanding of which risks will threaten the Council's ability to achieve its objectives, a risk appetite statement (the level of risk which Senior Leadership Team considers acceptable for the organisation to be exposed to) has been defined.

In implementing our Risk Management Strategy, we seek to assure our stakeholders (residents, customers, businesses, councillors, colleagues, partners, contractors) that the identification and management of risk and opportunities is integral to the delivery of our strategy and related objectives.

We will involve and empower all our staff to identify and manage risk. Management of risk activity will be regularly supported through discussion and appropriate action by the Senior Leadership Team. This will include a detailed review and confirmation of the significant risks and opportunities, evaluating their mitigation strategies and establishing further supporting actions to manage them to an acceptable level.

Responsible: Senior Leadership Team

Accountable: Chief Executive

Signed: Amanda Foley

Risk Management Strategy

The purpose of the strategy is to define our approach so that there is consistency and a shared understanding between staff, councillors, and key stakeholders. This approach aims to provide a practical, structured, and robust way of identifying, evaluating, and managing risks and opportunities.

The Council's approach to opportunity management will be developed over the coming months and will follow many of the principles set out in this strategy.

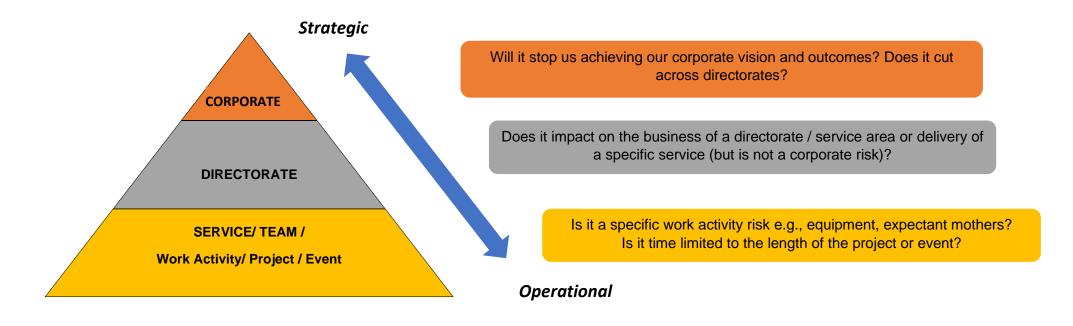
The Council is a member of ALARM (the Association of Local Authority Risk Managers), and our approach follows its recommended processes. Through the ALARM network, the Council:

- learns from best practice and gets insight into the risks other councils are facing.
- provides training to senior staff with risk management responsibilities.

The strategy is reviewed every year as part of business planning to make sure that it meets current organisational needs and best practice and is approved by the Policy Committee. Audit Committee carries out an annual review of how risk is being managed in the Council, and reviews corporate and divisional registers throughout the year.

Our risk management approach

1) <u>Define strategic and operational risks</u> – Our 'corporate' risks are the strategic level risks. Our operational risks include directorate, service, or team risks. Our approach depends on which sort of risk it is.



2) <u>Appropriate roles, accountabilities, and responsibilities</u> - These are assigned to the appropriate level for each sort of risk using the RACI model http://racichart.org/the-raci-model/.

Responsible for managing the risk

<u>Accountable</u> if this goes wrong – the **responsible** person(s) is delegated to manage the risk on their behalf

Consulted as they can tell you more about the risk – this may be a stakeholder or subject matter expert

Informed about how risks are being managed – usually a one-way communication

OVERALL RISK AC	COUNTABILITY:				
	CORPORATE	DIRECTORATE	PROJECT	EVENT	WORK BASED
RESPONSIBLE	Delegated lead Strategic Director with assigned Strategic Principal Officer	Strategic Director assigned lead Assistant Director or service manager	Project manager	Event manager	Line manager
ACCOUNTABLE	Chief Executive	Strategic Director	Project sponsor	Event sponsor	Service manager
Process for reviewing	SLT (with support from Internal Audit) quarterly Annually by SLT as part of business planning in March	Strategic Director/Assistant Directors at Management Team meetings quarterly Annually by Strategic Director and Assistant Directors as part of business planning in March	Project team meetings	Event management team meetings	Team brief, one to one meeting As in Safety Policy procedures
CONSULTED	Leader, Lead Councillors, managers, staff	Lead Councillor, staff, stakeholders, councillors	Project team, service users and stakeholders	Event team	Staff
INFORMED Reported to	Vice Chair of the Policy Committee - by exception where the inherent or residual risk level has gone up to high (red)	Lead Councillors and SLT - by exception quarterly - all high (red) residual risks, significant changes up or down level and new risks	Project team or board meetings, line management arrangements, relevant Lead Councillor (high residual risks)	Event management meetings, line management arrangements, relevant Lead Councillor (high residual risks)	Line management arrangements
INFORMED Reported to - audit and challenge	Internal Audit - annually (March) - high inherent or residual scores reviewed as part of the annual Internal Audit Plan - and as requested by SLT. Audit Committee – annual review	Internal Audit - annually (March) - high inherent or residual scores reviewed as part of the annual Internal Audit Plan - and as requested by SLT. Audit Committee - annual review	Service specific Scrutiny Committee as issues identified.	Service specific Scrutiny Committee as issues identified.	Internal Audit and Audit Committee as issues identified

Roles and Responsibilities

Who	Key Roles & Responsibilities	Report Type	Frequency
Council	Receive Policy Committee minutes		Annual or as required
Policy Committee (supported by Lead Officer responsible for the administration of Risk Management)	 Agree the Risk and Opportunity Management Policy and Strategy Hold the political responsibility for Risk and Opportunity Management within each individual service area. Identify a lead Councillor for Risk and Opportunity Management Receive reports, recommendations, and advice from Audit Committee 	Risk and Opportunity Management Policy and Strategy	Annually or as required
Audit Committee (supported by Lead Officer responsible for the administration of Risk Management)	 Oversee and challenge assurance and Risk and Opportunity Management arrangements Provide feedback on Strategy and Policy to the Policy Committee 	 Review of Policy, Strategy and Framework Receive quarterly updates on the Corporate and Risk and Opportunities Register and annual updates on all Divisional Risk and Opportunity registers, including the Climate and Sustainability register with a maximum of one Directorate reviewed each quarter. Receive assurance on effectiveness of risk and opportunity management 	AnnualQuarterlyAnnual
SLT (risk led by lead Strategic Director Customer Business and Corporate Support)	 Strategic leadership group for risk and opportunity management Agree the risk appetite for the organisation. Oversee the Risk and Opportunity Management Policy and Strategy Responsible for effectiveness of risk and opportunity and assurance arrangements and any management or mitigation - sign off on assurance map. Quarterly monitoring of corporate risks and opportunities and associated action plans Allocate appropriate resources to address top risks and opportunities. Create an environment and culture where Risk and Opportunity Management is embedded and facilitated by the organisation 	 Review of Risk and Opportunity Policy and Strategy Reviews of Corporate and Directorate Risk and Opportunity Registers Review/benchmarking of Risk and Opportunity Management 	AnnualQuarterlyAnnual
Internal Audit	 Use Assurance Mapping to ensure Audit Plan is aligned with top risks. Review and challenge effectiveness of Risk and Opportunity Policy, Strategy and Framework 	 Review of Risk and Opportunity Policy, Strategy and for Audit Committee Review progress of planned actions and effectiveness of mitigations for Audit Committee 	Annual Annual

Who	Key Roles & Responsibilities	Report Type	Frequency
Lead Officer responsible for the administration of Risk Management (Currently the Senior Internal Auditor)	 Establish Risk and Opportunity Management Policy, Strategy and Framework Maintenance of Corporate Risk and Opportunity Register Review/benchmarking of risk and opportunity management Quality check of registers and sharing best practice Advising/supporting risk managers Provide the link between risk management and other related disciplines e.g., insurance, business continuity, emergency planning and health and safety 	 Review of Risk and Opportunity Policy, Strategy and Framework for SLT, Audit Committee and Cabinet Reviews of Corporate and Directorate Risks and Opportunities Registers for SLT, Audit Committee and Policy Committee Review/benchmarking of Risk and Opportunity Management 	AnnuallyMonthlyAnnual
Strategic Director	 Identification and monitoring of directorate and corporate risks and opportunities Escalation of corporate risks and opportunities to SLT as appropriate Monitoring of high-level risks and opportunities facing the directorate or Council (including programme, partnership, project or service risks and opportunities) Champion and raise awareness of benefits of Risk and Opportunity Management. 	 Review of directorate and relevant corporate risk and opportunity registers as a standing agenda item at management team meetings. Report to SLT on identified risks and opportunities that require consideration for escalation to the Corporate Risk and Opportunities Register Report to Lead Councillors and Audit Committee on high level risks and opportunities facing the directorate/Council 	Quarterly or as required
Assistant Directors and service managers	Identification, management and review of risks and opportunities within their area of responsibility Monitoring and escalation of risks and opportunities to Strategic Directors as necessary	 Review of risks and opportunities registers as a standing agenda item at team meetings. Report to management meetings on identified risks and opportunities that require consideration for escalation to the directorate or Corporate Risk and Opportunities Register 	Quarterly or as required
Programme and Project Board or Project Managers	Responsible for the identification, management and monitoring of risks and opportunities within their given projects	 Review of risks and opportunities registers as a standing agenda item at project/programme boards. Report on the management of risks and opportunities and escalation of high-level risks and opportunities as necessary 	Monthly minimum
All employees	Consider and manage risk effectively in their job and report hazards, risks or opportunities to their manager or other responsible team/officer	Report incidents, risks and opportunities following Risk and Opportunity Management Policy and Strategy	As required

3) <u>Central to business management</u> - The cycle of identifying, evaluating, managing, and reviewing risk is an active and ongoing part of our business processes. Reviewing corporate and directorate risks is a key part of annual business planning, to make sure that these reflect new work plans and projects. This is also supported by a regular quarterly review of the risk registers. Risk management is also part of our project and event management approach.

Below are the main ways that new, emerging and changing risks are identified.

CORPORATE	DIRECTORATE	OTHER SERVICE/TEAM RISKS
 Standing Risk agenda item for weekly Senior Leadership Team Tracker' spreadsheet of Corporate Plan projects Horizon scanning and scenario planning e.g., for elections 	 Risk is a standing agenda item for team meetings One to one meetings with line manager Performance Conversations process 	 Project scoping and other project meetings, and project risk registers
 Monitoring ALARM bulletins and alerts Other councils' top risks from ALARM Benchmarking results Chief Executive/Leader one to one meetings 	 Responsible Reporting (Whistle blowing) Policy Complaints discussed quarterly at Senior Leadership Team 	Event meetingsConsultation and engagement exercises
 Lead Councillor meetings Emergency and Business Continuity Planning Corporate Health and Safety Officer, Insurance Officer and Legal 	 Consultation and engagement Feedback from Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments 	 Feedback from Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments
team monitor emerging issues	 Lead Councillor meetings Councillor contact with constituents Business Continuity Planning 	 Project board meetings

Promotes a 'risk aware' not a 'risk averse' culture— This is a behaviour that continues to be a key element of the current 'Building our Future' transformation programme to develop an 'Adaptive' Council supported by new ways of working.

Raising risk awareness is supported through specific opportunities as summarised in the table above. We also recognise that risk is an opportunity to challenge what we do and to find better ways of doing things. Risk registers are available for staff to see.

CORPORATE	https://stalbanscdc.sharepoint.com/sites/CorporateandDirectorateRiskRegister
DIRECTORATE	https://stalbanscdc.sharepoint.com/sites/CorporateandDirectorateRiskRegister
PROJECT	V Drive:\SHARED DOCUMENTS\
EVENT	Directorate drive or G Drive if cross- directorate
WORK BASED	G Drive:\Health and Safety

5) <u>Clear and consistent approach for identifying, assessing, and recording risk -</u> We use a similar approach for recording and evaluating corporate, directorate and other risks as described in Appendix 1

Appendix 1: Recording and Assessing Risk – How to Complete a Risk Register

Individual strategic and directorate risks are recorded in word with each risk having its own document. All the risks are available for all staff to view on the Corporate and Directorate Risk Register Sharepoint site which can be accessed via STAN. Editing is restricted to the Chief Executive, the Strategic Directors, Members of the Internal Audit Team, Risk Owners, and Executive Assistants.

Do not duplicate strategic risks in directorate risk registers, unless there are specific elements of a strategic risk which need tailored management by a directorate. Any further actions will then feed into the overall corporate risk assessment. For example, effective contract management is a strategic risk which applies to all Council contractors, but the risks associated with specific contracts will sit within the relevant directorate.

Risk Register Template

Council PlanState which aspect of the Council or departmental plan the risk links toRisk AppetiteState the risk appetiteRisk CategoryNote the risk categoryRisk OwnerNote the Post HolderDate Added to theEither Pre 2015 or the)				
Risk Appetite State the risk appetite Risk Category Note the risk category	State which aspect of the Council or departmental plan the risk links to				
Pick Owner Note the Post Holder Date Added to the Either Dre 2015 or the					
Nisk Owner Note the Post Holder Date Added to the Either Pie 2015 of the					
responsible for the risk Risk Register actual date					
Lead Include the lead Date Last Note the date you are					
Directorate directorate Reviewed completing the register	•				
Accountable Note the accountable Date of Next This would be either					
Strategic strategic director Review monthly, quarterly, or e	ever				
Director six months					
Risk RISK - Insufficient income and increased costs.					
CAUSE - Reduction of income due to changes in government funding					
streams, not being able to sell or let finished properties, not being able	to				
collect income due and increased costs due to external pressures such					
Ukraine, energy costs, raising interest rates leading to the increased c	osts				
of borrowing. In addition, costs will rise as some of the Council's contra	acts				
include a provision for CPI increases.					
CONSEQUENCE - The Council has a gap between income and					
expenditure in the current year is not able to deliver a balanced budge	t				
going forward.					
Background Give some context to the risk so that it may be understood					
Risk Explain the reason for the inherent risk score – that is why it is likely the	at				
Likelihood the risk will happen. The levels of risk likelihood are shown below					
Risk Explain the reason for the inherent risk score – what will happen if you	do				
Impact nothing. The levels of risk impact are shown below					
Controls in Place Additional Actions to Mitigate Risks					
Consider what controls are in place to List any additional one-off actions that	can				
reduce or remove (mitigate) the risk A be undertaken to reduce the risk still	be undertaken to reduce the risk still				
risk can be mitigated by:	the				
actions					
a) radusing the likelihood of it					
a) reducing the likelihood of it happening					
b) reducing the impact to the Council					
should it happen.					
Should it happen.					
Inherent Risk Residual Risk Target Risk					
Likelihood Impact Likelihood Impact Likelihood Impact					
Elicanosa impact Elicanosa impact Elicanosa impact					

The 'inherent risk score' assumes that there are no steps in place to reduce or remove the risk. Rate the **impact** of the risk on delivering services or meeting objectives and the **likelihood** of it happening. See Appendix 1b for definitions of the rating levels.

The residual risk is after the mitigations. A target risk is the score that can be achieved if the additional actions are undertaken. Assign a target risk rating based on the type of risk and the Council's risk appetite. This should be the level of risk that is realistically

achievable once all mitigations and further actions are in place. See Appendix 1c for the Council's risk appetite to see what is realistic.

The risk score is the likelihood multiplied by the impact.

Risk Scores are Shown in the Table below:

Catastrophic	5	10	15	20	25
Severe	4	8	12	16	20
Moderate	3	6	9	12	15
Minor	2	4	6	8	10
Low	1	2	3	4	5
Impact	1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very Likely

Use the table below to plan the appropriate action for the level of risk.

Risk Level	Tolerability	Comments
1 – 4	Acceptable	No further action required, but ensure controls are maintained
5 – 9	Adequate	No further action required, but ensure controls are maintained and keep under close review
10 – 16	Tolerable	Look to improve level of risk if practical
17 – 25	Unacceptable	Stop activity and make immediate improvements

Based on the risk score these are the actions to consider

Actions to take:			
1	Terminate the risk	Decide to stop the activity e.g., if it is felt that the risk is too great or that the financial cost of mitigating controls was too high	
2	Transfer the risk	Pass the risk on e.g., to an insurer or Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contractor	
3	Treat the risk	Decide to manage the risk by putting further controls in place to reduce impact or likelihood	
4	Tolerate the risk	Decide to accept the risk without transferring or treating it but to monitor and re-evaluate it in the future	

For high tolerable risks, list what will be done to reduce the residual risk score or explain why this is not practical in the 'action' column. Then ensure these actions have a realistic 'completion date' and are assigned to a specific officer.

Appendix 1a – Types of Risk

Reputation	Related to the Council's standing with residents, wider public, key stakeholders and influencers, and the public e.g., through adverse publicity.
Finance	Related to financial planning and control, ensuring sufficient funding to meet expenditure commitments and the adequacy of insurance cover.
Compliance	Associated with current or potential changes in national or International Law and adhering to legislation, regulations, procedures e.g., age discrimination legislation.
Corporate Priorities	Relating to delivering the Council's corporate priorities, and the effectiveness of these priorities in the wider context
People	Related to the Council's workforce including staff wellbeing, recruitment and retention of qualified staff, succession planning, establishing clear roles and responsibilities, over reliance on key officers.
Health and Safety	Related to fire, security, accident prevention and health and safety.
Information Governance	Related to the security, accuracy, timeliness of any information held or given by the organisation.
Customer Delivery	Related to meeting current and changing needs and expectations of residents, customers, and citizens.
Environment	Related to the Council's influence on the health of the environment including sustainability, impacts of materials use and waste, pollution, transport, noise, and greenhouse gas emissions
Climate	Related to the Council's influence on making the Council carbon neutral by 2030
Cyber Security	Related to the need to ensure cyber security in a digital world

Appendix 1b – Likelihood and impact definitions

To estimate the likelihood and impact of the risk use the following descriptions and definitions of the rating.

LIKELIHOOD

Rating	Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
1	Very Unlikely	Rare, but it may occur in exceptional circumstances. It could happen, but probably never will.
2	Unlikely	Not expected, but there is a slight possibility it may occur at some time.
3	Possible	The event might occur at some time as there is a history of casual occurrence at the Council and/or similar organisation.
4	Likely	There is a strong possibility the event will occur as there is a history of frequent occurrence at the Council and/or similar organisation.
5	Very Likely	Almost certain. The event is expected to occur in most circumstances as there is a history of regular occurrence at the Council and/or similar organisation.

IMPACT

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Low	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Catastrophic
Finance	Lower level of financial loss; Less than £10,000	£10,000 to £100,000; not covered by insurance	£100,000 to £300,000; not covered by insurance	£300,000 to £400,000; not covered by insurance	Above £400,000; not covered by insurance
Compliance	Minor civil litigation or regulatory criticism Breach of guidance / statuary duty	Minor regulatory enforcement Informal recommendation from regulator	Major civil litigation and/or local public inquiry	Major civil litigation setting precedent and/or national public enquiry. Enforcement action Multiple breeches in statutory duty Improvement notices	Section 151 or government intervention or criminal charges
Customer Delivery	Insignificant disruption on internal business - no loss of customer service	Some disruption on internal business only - no loss of customer service	Noticeable disruption affecting customers Loss of service up to 48 hours	Major disruption affecting customers Loss of service for more than 48 hours	Loss of service delivery for more than seven days
People	Short-term staffing absence (less than 2 weeks) that temporarily reduces service quality	Low staffing level (up to 1 month) that reduces service quality	Low staffing level (up to 2 months) or lack of skills/experience that reduces service standards or leads to late delivery of objectives	Low staffing level (more than 2 months), lack of skills/experience and/or loss of key staff that leads to uncertain delivery of key corporate services or objectives	Low staffing level (more than 2 months), lack of skills/experience and/or loss of key staff that leads to non-delivery of key corporate services or objectives
Environment	Minor or negligible danger to the environment.	Some short-term impact to the environment	Long term impact to the environment	Major ongoing impacts to the environment, including raising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	Breach of statutory environment duties, increasing GHG emissions

Rating	1	2	3	4	5
Description	Low	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Catastrophic
Health and Safety	No or only minor personal injury - first aid needed but no days lost	Minor injury - medical treatment and some days lost	Injury - possible hospitalisation and numerous days lost	Single death and/or long-term illness or multiple serious injuries	Multiple deaths or permanent disability or ill- health
Information Governance	Minor breach affecting single individual	Minor breach or sharing of inappropriate information affecting up to 20 people	Minor breach or sharing of inappropriate information affecting 21-100 people or very sensitive breach relating to 2 to 5 people	Minor breach or sharing of inappropriate information affecting 101- 500 people or very sensitive breach relating to 5 to 20 people	Minor breach or sharing of inappropriate information affecting over 500 people or very sensitive breach relating to over 20 people
Reputation	Negligible impact	Adverse minor comment including on social media	Adverse social and local media coverage	Adverse national coverage	Demand for government inquiry
Corporate Priorities	Resolved in day-to-day management	Minor impact	Significant impact	Major impact	Disastrous impact
Climate	Minor or negligible impact on the delivery of a carbon neutral council	Medium impact	Large impact on the delivery of the carbon neutral programme	There is a major concern to the delivery of the carbon neutral target	The council will not meet its carbon neutral target
Cyber Security	Minor breach affecting single individual. No loss of systems or delays in service delivery from breach.	Minor breach affecting one team or up to 20 people and limited to one system. Minor delays in service delivery less than 7 days to recover systems/ restore data.	Breach affecting the whole of one service area and / or limited to no more than two systems. Delays in service delivery less than 2 weeks to recover systems/ restore data.	Breach affecting more than one service area and three or more of the systems. Delays in service delivery of up to 4 weeks to recover systems/ restore data. Financial cost less than £250k.	Whole business of the Council compromised/ all systems impacted. Delays in service delivery over 4 weeks to restore systems/ recover data. Significant financial cost to Council to recover systems/ data £250k +.

Appendix 1c - Risk Appetite Statement

Risk appetite is the amount of risk the Council is prepared to accept in the pursuit of its strategic objectives.

The overall risk appetite that SLT considers appropriate taking all strategic objective risk appetite alignment into consideration is 'Open.' This means that SLT is prepared to consider all delivery options and will select those with the highest probability of productive outcomes, even when there are elevated levels of associated risks. Different areas of the organisation will accept more or less risk than others. For example, the Council will accept more risk for areas of growth than in those relating to Governance and Compliance. The amount of risk the broader Council is willing to take will vary depending on the risk category.

iorities Climate Covernance/ ity	Health and Safety	Information Governance/ Cyber Security	Environment/ Climate	Compliance	Finance		Customer Delivery	People	Corporate Priorities	Reputation
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Low acceptable risk

High acceptable risk

Averse	Cautious	Open	Hungry
 Preference for safe business delivery options that have a low degree of current risk and potential for limited reward. Low risk options taken to 	 Preference for safe delivery options that have a medium degree of risk and may only have limited potential for reward. Willing to take risks but prefer to 	Willing to consider all potential delivery options and chooses the one that is most likely to result in successful delivery whilst also providing a good level of reward.	Eager to be innovative and chooses options offering potentially higher business rewards despite greater inherent risk.
minimise exposure – reluctant to act given uncertainty – highly influenced by experience	take the safe delivery option minimising the exposure with tight corporate controls over change	No surprises – well measured risk taking.	Recognises highly devolved decision-making meaning that not all risks are known.
	or a principle of the straing of	Willing to take risk with a degree of uncertainty recognising that things may go wrong.	Acts when uncertain of results with uncertain information.
		Learns from mistakes	Willing to accept significant loss for potentially higher reward
1-4	5-9	10-16	17-25