

Risk Name	CR12 – People and infrastructure in the District are vulnerable to extremes of temperature		
Council Plan	Making the Environment a priority in all our decisions		
Risk Appetite	Averse	Risk Category	Environment/ Climate
Risk Owner	The Chief Executive	Date Added to the Risk Register	26/10/2023
Teams	All Teams in the Council	Date Last Reviewed	15/01/2026
Accountable Manager	The Chief Executive	Date of Next Review	15/04/2026
Risk	<p>RISK – People and infrastructure in the District are vulnerable to overheating and extreme cold in their homes, workplaces, Council facilities and public realm which leads to risk of illness and even death. Heatwaves disrupt revenue generating outdoor leisure services whilst also increasing energy and water demand for cooling. Costs to council increase as cooling systems need to be installed in buildings.</p> <p>CAUSE – Climate change causing an overall increase in temperatures with occasional extremes.</p> <p>CONSEQUENCE – Illness, some deaths, higher costs to the Council.</p>		
Background	The UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) predict that the country will experience warmer winters, hotter summers with greater potential for heatwaves and increased humidity.		
Risk Likelihood	Heat impacts from climate change are already happening both nationally and globally. Further long-term heating is inevitable because of existing, and ongoing, greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the likelihood will always remain high that there will be overheating within the District. There is also the risk of extreme cold spells.		
Risk Impact	Impacts from rising temperatures, as well as extreme cold spells. are expected to increase in severity over time because of the long lifespan of greenhouse gases, and their accumulation in the atmosphere. The Council is limited in the resources available to manage these risks in advance, therefore the impact level will always remain high.		
Controls in Place		Additional Actions to Mitigate Risks	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of current trees and planting of new trees as trees reduce the heat island affect. 2. Hot weather advice given to staff and public during events including guidance on fire hazards (e.g. BBQ's, cigarettes, glass on dry grass etc). 3. Flexible working hours to ensure staff are not outdoors during the hottest 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refurbish buildings to ensure there is adequate ventilation and cooling, possibly considering the use of air conditioning and additional blinds to shade rooms. 2. Improve ventilation to Council's homes as part of a Housing Improvement programme. Include programme of works in the 	

<p>periods of hot days (1pm-4pm) (during heat episodes).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Communication lines are available should internet go down. 5. Blinds installed in our office buildings to provide cooling for staff. 6. Provide advice to households on how to adapt the home to reduce heat gain. 7. Provide advice on how to reduce heating costs. 8. Three water bottle refill fountains have been installed in public spaces where the public have limited access to water. 9. When designing and refurbishing play areas the Council considers the need for shade for children and parents and specifies that designs consider opportunities for shade. 10. HRA decarbonisation programme improves insulation and reduces heating costs. 11. HRA Mould and Damp Policy is reviewed annually. Guide for tenants experiencing condensation and damp problems has been produced. A process is in place to ensure damp and mould reports are treated in a timely fashion. 12. Draft Local Plan Policy includes Renewable and Low Carbon Energy policy which requires major developments to consider building orientation to reduce overheating. 13. Work with partners to establish cool spaces in the District during high heat periods. 14. Planting standard trees in open areas and along footpaths to provide extra shade. Objective that tree planting provides more shade will be incorporated to Trees and Woodlands workplan and will identify areas where this can be carried out. SADC provide list of felled trees to HCC who inspect site to establish if viable to add to their planting programme. We also work with local groups when funds are available, to fund 	<p>medium-long term housing investment programme.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. All new buildings to have adequate ventilation and cooling, using shade and orientation to reduce overheating as per current Building Regs (Future Homes Standard). 4. Hertfordshire authorities are working towards a centralised Retrofit Advisory Service for households which will provide advice to households on how to adapt the home to reduce heat gain and heat loss.
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additional tree planting (e.g. Butt field View)					
15.					
Inherent Risk		Residual Risk		Target Risk	
Likelihood	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Likelihood	Impact
5	5	4	4	3	3
25		16		9	
First Line of Assurance		Second Line of Assurance		Third Line of Assurance	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainability and Climate Strategy. 2. Sustainability and Climate Crisis Tracker 3. Quarterly Meetings to Monitor Progress 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaison with other local authorities and comparison of risk registers. 2. Environmental performance indicators are reviewed by the Planning, Policy and Climate Committee. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There was a 2020-21 audit. 2. An audit of the £2.5m Decarbonisation Fund in 2022/23. 3. There is to be a 2025-26 audit of climate and sustainability. 	