

Climate Change Risk Assessment & Management Plan



December 2009

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6 Consequences of climate change risks for Cambridge City Council

The primary consequences of the impacts from climate and weather events identified in section 1 will have follow-on consequences for the operations of Cambridge City Council, in common with other organisations in Cambridge and further afield.

Assessment of various risks to Cambridge City Council is already undertaken by its corporate Risk Management Group, which maintains a corporate risk register identifying all the different risks to the delivery of Council services as well as measures to control them. In order to assist consideration of the risks associated with climate change alongside those identified in the corporate risk register, the risk assessment exercise described below has adopted the same approach to scoring the likelihood and severity of impacts, which is detailed in Appendix C.

Appendix D lists 29 climate change risks, 25 of which present threats and 4 of which present opportunities to the service delivery of Cambridge City Council. In addition to those features described for the Cambridge climate change risk assessment in section 1, the following assessment for Cambridge City Council also identified the following.

City Council consequence – to the service delivery operations of Cambridge City Council (e.g. increased demand for environmental health services) resulting from the primary consequence (e.g. increased vector-borne diseases) of climate and weather impacts (e.g. higher seasonal temperatures).

CCC Risk category – indicating which of the 10 risk categories outlined in Cambridge City Council's Risk Management Strategy (April 2009) best describes the source of the risk. As all of the risks assessed emanate from changes in environmental trends, they all correspond to the 'External impact' category.

Severity – a score of 1 to 5 is assigned to each City Council consequence corresponding to the description of the scale of its impact contained in Appendix C. Whilst the risk scoring method contained in Appendix C is primarily designed to assess negative impacts, for this exercise it has also been used to inform the scale of potential opportunities, and a negative score (-1 to -5) was used accordingly.

Figure 13 adopts the same risk matrix format used in the Community Risk Register to prioritise the 25 negative risks (threats) identified for Cambridge City Council in the 2020's resulting from climate change and

Table 7 provides details of the 12 threats judged to be high or very high priority.

Figure 13: Cambridge City Council 2020's climate change risk matrix - threats

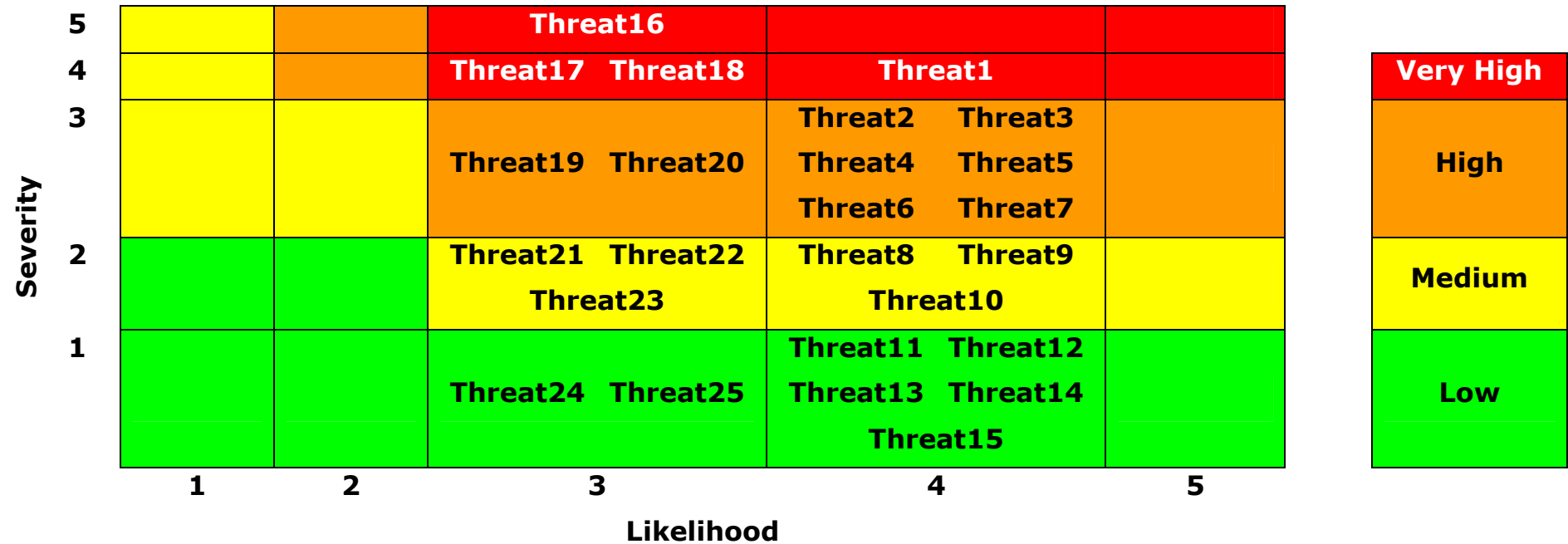


Table 7: High & very high priority 2020's climate change threats to Cambridge City Council

ID	City Council consequence	Impact/ opportunity	Primary consequence	CCC Risk Category	2020s Risk
Threat16	Delivery of growth agenda threatened	Insufficient water supplies for new development	Potentially limits development	External impact	15
Threat17	Increased demand for emergency response to flood incidents	Increased flood risk (river & surface water)	Public health & safety risk Disruption to transport, power, communications & water services	External impact	12
Threat18	Flood recovery, repair & insurance costs for Council property	Increased flood risk (river & surface water)	Property damage	External impact	12
Threat1	Achievement of corporate strategic objectives regarding sustainable development threatened	Increased water consumption (esp. gardening) Increased water consumption Increased evapo-transpiration	Increased pressure on reducing water availability Reduced water availability	External impact	16
Threat19	Flood restoration costs for Council managed riparian sites and drainage clearance	Increased flood risk (river & surface water)	Morphological changes to riverside habitats	External impact	9

ID	City Council consequence	Impact/ opportunity	Primary consequence	CCC Risk Category	2020s Risk
Threat20	Service disruption and staff absenteeism	Increased flood risk (river & surface water)	Disruption to work due to supply chain, utility & travel disruption and staff absenteeism	External impact	9
Threat2	Equipment failure (e.g. servers) due to maximum temperature exceeded	Equipment & infrastructure temperature thresholds exceeded	Disruption to work due to travel disruption, equipment failure (e.g. servers), staff absenteeism	External impact	12
Threat3	Increased electricity costs associated with providing a comfortable working environment	Increased internal building temperatures	Increased summer energy & water demand for cooling & refrigeration	External impact	12
Threat4	Increased demand for environmental health services	Increase in vector-borne diseases (incl. reduced winter die-off) Increase in vermin & pests (incl. reduced winter die-off)	Public health & safety risk	External impact	12
Threat5	Increased demand for environmental health services (odours)	Increase in unpleasant odours	Public nuisance	External impact	12
Threat6	Increased fire risk to Council staff & property	Increased fire risk	Public health & safety risk	External impact	12

ID	City Council consequence	Impact/ opportunity	Primary consequence	CCC Risk Category	2020s Risk
Threat7	Achievement of the City Council Air Quality Strategy objectives threatened	Reduced air quality	Public health & safety risk, particularly the elderly & those with respiratory problems	External impact	12

Figure 14 adopts the same risk matrix format used in the Community Risk Register to prioritise the 4 positive risks (opportunities) identified for Cambridge City Council in the 2020’s resulting from climate change. Whilst none of these are judged to be high or very high, Table 8 provides further details for each opportunity identified

Figure 14: Cambridge City Council 2020’s climate change risk matrix - opportunities

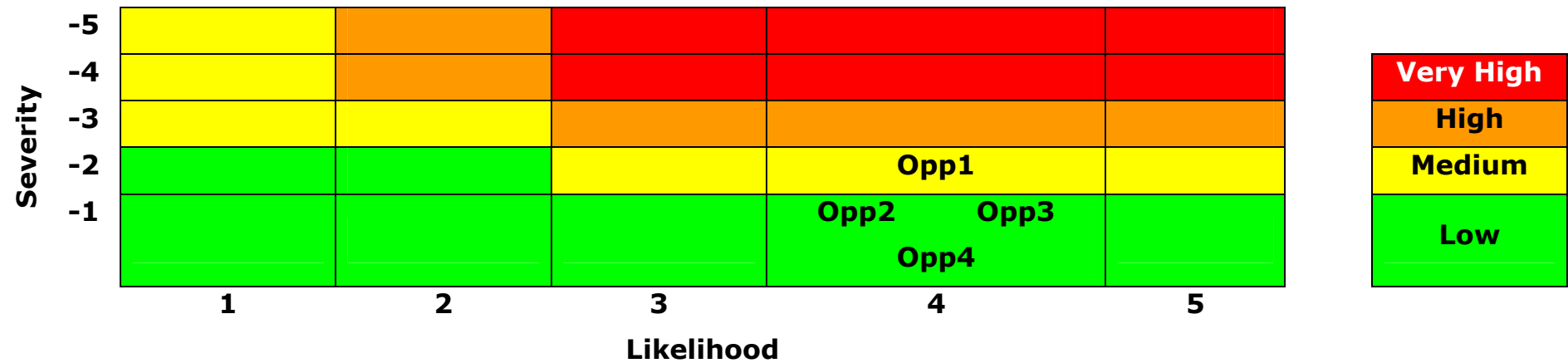


Table 8: 2020's climate change opportunities to Cambridge City Council

ID	City Council consequence	Impact/ opportunity	Primary consequence	CCC Risk Category	2020s Risk
Opp1	Reduced gas costs associated with providing a comfortable working environment	Increased internal building temperatures	Reduced winter energy demand for heating	External impact	-8
Opp2	Reduced winter absentee rates and health & safety incidents	Reduced probability of frost, ice & snow	Public health & safety benefit (slips, accidents) Less damage & disruption to transport infrastructure (accidents, icing of rails & points) Less disruption to work due to staff absence, travel delay, ice & snow	External impact	-4
Opp3	Reduced winter absentee rates and demand for bereavement services	Reduced cold weather illnesses (potentially)	Public health & safety benefit	External impact	-4
Opp4	Support local food growing (e.g. allotments)	Longer growing season	Potential for increased food crop production	External impact	-4