Policy Group: Finance

Annual Business Continuity Plan

RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE: P&F

This is a policy/procedure document of Saltash
Town Council to be followed by both
Councillors and Employees.

Current Document Status							
Version	2025/26	Approved by	FTC				
Date	03.04.2025	Responsible Officer	RFO				
Minute no.	05/25/26a	Next review date	Annual or as required				

Version History							
Date	Version	Author/ editor	Committee/ date	Minute no.	Notes		
10/2015	1	Town Clerk	P&R 17.11.2015	80/15/16	New document		
08/2016	2	Town Clerk	n/a	n/a	Updated – RL Internal contacts lists redacted.		
03/2019	3	RL/AJT	FTC 04.04.2019	17/19/20b	Updated		
02/2020	2020/21	Town Clerk	P&F 25.02.2020	155/19/20b	Annual Review – updated contact list		
06/2020	2020/21v2	SB	P&F 09.06.2020	36/2021a	Health Pandemic update		
03/2021	2021/22	SB	P&F 09.03.2021	170/20/21b	Annual revew- deferred to FTC		
06/2021	2021/22	AJT	FTC 03.06.2021	74/21/22f	For readoption		
02/2022	2022/23	SE	FTC 03.03.2022	451/21/22c	Annual review		
05/2022	2022/23	AJT	ATM 05.05.2022	54/22/23g(ii)	Readopted		

05/2023	2023/24	AJT	ATM 04.02.2023	28/23/24b(i)	Readopted
02.2024	2024/25 DRAFT	SB	P&F 27.02.2024	156/23/24b(2)	Reviewed for recommendation to FTC 03.2024
03.2024	2024/25	SB	FTC 07.03.2024	367/23/24c	Recommendation from P&F.Approved.
05.2024	2024	SB	ATM 02.05.2024	64/24/25b(1)	Readopted
02.2025	2025/26	WP	P&F 11.03.2025	164/24/25b(1)	Reviewed for recommendation to FTC 04.2025
04.2025	2025/26	WP	FTC 03.04.2025	05/25/26a	Approved

Document Retention Period

Until superseded

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Distribution

1.	Reception Notice Board (hard copy)
2.	Town Clerk
3	Chairman of the Town Council
4	Line Managers
5.	Electronic copy backed up on the server

Annual Business Continuity Plan

1. Introduction

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a duty on a local authority that it is prepared, as far as reasonably practical, to continue to provide functions/ services in the event of a disruption by whatever cause.

Whilst this is not a statutory duty for a Parish or Town Council, Saltash Town Council recognises the importance of producing and maintaining a Business Continuity Plan for implementation in the event of disruptions to the day to day running of the council.

This plan has been developed to assist in minimising the effects of any potential major disruption and to facilitate the recovery or replacement of Saltash Town Council accommodation, administration/financial operations and services.

A major disruption is defined as a significant incident which threatens personnel, buildings or the operational structure of the businesses involved and requires special measures to be taken to restore things back to good working order.

2. Functions of Saltash Town Council:

The Guildhall houses the Saltash Town Council offices from where the day-to-day administration and finance of the Town Council is undertaken, this includes regular council meetings.

The Guildhall also provides accommodation on a casual hire basis for community groups, public and private hire functions. Some of these are regular scheduled bookings.

To act as a community care and accommodation building in the event of a civil emergency.

Specifically, the Guildhall is designated as an emergency accommodation centre in the event of a disaster at the Saltash Bridge or tunnel.

Saltash Town Council also owns/leases and has public and staff responsibility for Churchtown Cemetery, Saltash Library, Longstone Depot, Pontoon Cabin, Isambard House (Station Building) and the Maurice Huggins Room.

In the event of a major disaster the Town Council will maintain as many services as practicable.

To facilitate services and facilities the Town Council employ around 25 members of staff.

Customers include residents and visitors to Saltash and any other individual who qualifies to use the services the Town Council provides.

Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of Saltash and collectively are the ultimate policy-makers by carrying out strategic and corporate management functions; contribute to the good governance of the area by actively encouraging and responding to citizen involvement in decision making processes having regard to the interests of the whole local community; maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics, and act as a responsible employer and ensure the safety of all staff.

3. Business Risk Analysis:

The following are recognised as potential major risks for the operations of Saltash Town Council:

- Fire
- Gas leak/explosion
- Loss of mains electrical power
- Damage to council offices
- Flooding (Environment agency indicate no risk)
- Loss of Town Council documents due to fire, flood, theft or other causes

- Loss of Town Council electronic data due to fault, damage, corruption, hardware failure or hacking attack
- Damage to park, allotments or other amenity area.
- Loss of Town Council equipment due to fault damage, breakdown or theft
- Loss of Communications (Broadband / Telephones)
- Damage to Asbestos Containing materials
- Loss of Investment Money
- Failure to calculate precept on time
- Failure to account for and recover VAT
- Failure to stay within the agreed budgets/inadequate precept
- Failure to maintain fixed asset register
- Allegation of libel or slander
- Fraud by staff or councillors
- Loss of Town Clerk/ Key Personnel due to resignation, incapacity, long term illness or death
- Death or serious injury to member of staff whilst carrying out Town Council duties
- Loss of councillors due to multiple resignations (causing the Town Council to be inquorate)
- Health Pandemic/ Lockdown

The objectives of this document are:

- To provide guidance, establish actions to be taken and develop procedures that will allow the Town Council to manage any incident
- To ensure the continued operation of key services
- To keep the organisation working effectively
- To inform the community and customers of the Town Council

Business risk	Impact	Likelihood	Score	Mitigation strategy	Notes and Actions to Manage Risks
Disaster	High	Low		Work with and support key	Emergency plan including contact list
impacting on	4	2	8	stakeholders in the town	of resources maintained by all
Town					departments.
					Key personnel will make themselves available
					Common sense used to determine appropriate action
					Actively listen for and monitor any communications
					Accept instructions from emergency services and Cornwall Council emergency planning team
Guildhall	Medium	Low		Carry out regular checks and	There are no life critical services
Unserviceable	3	2	6	fire risk assessments	provided
				Maintain adequate insurance	Management Team called together to
				cover	agree priorities
					Short- term measure to recover in alternative location – e.g., Library

					 Medium/ long term plan to return to Guildhall
Fire	High	Low		Provision of fire detection and	Hire alternative accommodation and
Damage to part of	4	2	8	centrally monitored alarm	equipment to continue Town Council
or loss to any				systems, firefighting equipment.	functions and meetings.
Town Council				Fire Risk Assessment reviewed	 Cancel bookings and meetings.
building.				and updated regularly.	
Loss of life.					
Gas leak	Medium	Low		Annual inspection of equipment	Provide alternative means of providing
Loss of heating	3	2	6	by gas safe registered	heating & hot water
and hot water				contractor	 Call out arrangements with Contractor
facilities in any of					 Cancel bookings and meetings
the Town Council					 If required, staff work from home
buildings.					
Loss of main	Medium	Low		Internal fault:	Hire alternative accommodation to
electrical power	3	2	6	The electrical system is	continue Town Council functions and
(long term)				inspected and tested every 5	meetings
Loss of heating,				years by competent	 Cancel bookings and meetings
lighting,				contractors.	If required, staff work from home

communications				External fault:	
and alarm				Contact with utility provider to	
systems. Inability				provide information	
to use the building					
safely during the					
hours of darkness					
in any of the Town					
Council buildings.					
Damage to	Medium	Medium		An up-to-date register of assets	Record all information and inform the
Physical assets	3	3	9	Physical verification of assets	insurance company of any incident
owned by the				on register	and obtain photographic evidence
Town Council –				Regular safety checks on	Town Clerk to advise Councillors and
buildings,				physical assets	staff of incident
furniture,				Regular Maintenance	If necessary, relocate to alternative
equipment.				arrangements for physical	premises or work from home as
Complete loss of				assets	appropriate to the role and if
ICT, etc.				Insurance regularly reviewed	practicable.
				Buildings re-valued regularly	Town Council answer phone to state
				Computer backups off site	emergency mobile contact numbers
				Reputable ICT support	Review risk assessment
				contractor/Supplier	

				Buildings alarmed for security	
				and fire	
				Staff Training	
Harm caused by	Medium	Medium		Risk Assessments carried out	
failure to ensure	3	3	9	H&S Advisory service provided	
adequate Health				by Hygiene 2 Health	
and Safety				Town Council property properly	
				maintained	
				Specific training provided as	
				per risk assessment findings	
				inc. First Aid	
				Regular H&S review meetings	
				H&S covered in team meetings	
Loss of Town	High	Low		To operate a clear desk policy	Town Clerk or in their absence the
Council	4	2	8	Ensure important	nominated Officer as per the line
documents due				documentation is stored	management staff structure to advise
to fire, flood, theft				securely in fire/ flood proof	council and staff of the incident.
or other causes				cabinets.	Inform Police and Insurance company
					(If necessary).

Loss of Town	High	Low		Ensure backup copies of paper documents i.e., electronic version is stored. Ensure antivirus software is up	If appropriate, consider security controls i.e., change of locks/ passwords Town Clerk or in their absence the
council electronic data due to fault, damage, corruption, hardware failure or hacking attack	4	2	8	 to date Ensure passwords are robust and regularly updated Ensure date is regularly backed up and stored securely 	nominated Officer as per the line management staff structure to advise councillors and staff of the incident. Inform insurance company (if necessary) Update security as required
Damage to Park/ allotments or other Amenity Area	Medium 3	Low 2	6	Maintain adequate insurance cover Carry out risk assessments	 Secure Park Advise statutory authorities Access damage and advise insurance Prepare a recovery programme

Loss of Town	High	Medium		Maintain adequate insurance cover	Report theft or criminal damage
Council equipment due to fault, damage, breakdown or theft	4	2	8	 Maintain adequate insurance cover Ensure regular maintenance and checks of equipment are carried out Regularly review security arrangements 	 Report their or criminal damage to police. Inform Insurance Company (If necessary) Arrange hire of temporary replacement equipment where possible. Arrange purchase of new equipment.
Loss of communications (Broadband/ telephones). (Long term)	Medium 3	Low 2	6	 Electronic data backed up online and accessible from other locations. Use of mobile phones for communications. 	 Hire alternative accommodation with broadband access. Use of mobile phones and laptops.
Damage to Asbestos containing material - release of fibres	High 4	Low 1	4	Asbestos register maintained, annual inspections for damage and deterioration, contractors are informed prior to undertaking any work in the building	 Initial evacuation of premises. Advise the Consultant Surveyor, H&S consultants & contact specialist asbestos removal

contamination of				A complete copy of the register and	contractors to undertake air
affected area.				survey is held by the Service	testing and decontamination.
				Delivery Manager and the	Hire alternative accommodation
				Consultant Surveyor	as necessary.
Loss of	High	Low		Maintain an adequate investment	Quantify loss & understand
Investment	4	2	8	policy	cause
Money					Take any immediate action to
					minimise the loss.
					Assess implication of services
					for remainder of year
					Review treasury management
					strategy policy
					Take action to adjust costs &
					make provision for any
					necessary loan/ change of
					priorities
Failure to	Medium	Low		Timetable agenda item for	Town Clerk/RFO or in their
calculate/	3	2	6	councillorss providing sufficient time	absence the nominated Officer
precept on time				for additional meetings if required	

					as per the line management staff structure to inform councillorss To contact Cornwall Council to make arrangements for late
					submission.
Failure to	Medium	Low		VAT Returns are scheduled	Town Clerk/ RFO or in their
account for and	3	2	6	Appropriate accounting system in	absence the nominated Officer
recover VAT				place to account for VAT	as per the line management staff
				appropriately	structure to inform councillors
				Staff to receive the necessary	To liaise with the Town Council's
				council VAT training	VAT consultant to rectify the
				To ensure up to date information is	issue.
				received from the Town Council's	
				VAT consultant	
Failure to stay	Medium	Low		To ensure that all committees have	RFO/FO or nominated Officer to
within the	3	2	6	input into the annual budget setting	inform the relevant committee
agreed budgets/				 Councillors to build sound budget, 	Chair & Vice Chair
inadequate				using risk register and known	Town Clerk or in their absence
precept				commitments	the nominated Officer as per the
				 Insurance in place with insurer 	line management staff structure
				(Zurich) to cover major risk	to organise an extraordinary

				To ensure a sufficient contingency is	Policy and Finance committee if
				in place to mitigate the risk of	required.
				unforeseen events. This policy to be	 Resort to other funding sources
				reviewed each year in conjunction	or Public Works Loan Board
				with the rest of the reserves. This is	Correct deficit via budget
				reviewed on annual basis when	planning over subsequent years
				setting the following year budgets	
	NA 12				
Failure to	Medium	Low		That all the necessary fixed asset	 Town Clerk or in their absence
maintain fixed	3	2	6	purchases are recorded and	the nominated Officer as per the
asset register.				monitored on the asset register.	line management staff structure
				Appropriate document e.g., invoices	to inform councillorss and staff
				are kept for audit purposes	as appropriate.
				Internal audit is carried of the fixed	 To liaise with the internal auditor
				asset register	as necessary
				All staff are aware of the	
				responsibilities of the fixed asset	
				register	
Allegation of	Medium	Low		Review all press releases or	Review insurance cover
libel or slander	3	2	6	newsletter articles before release	

				Press protocol and social media	
				policy in place	
Loss of money	Medium	Low		Ensure adequate internal controls	Town Clerk or in their absence
through fraud,	3	2	6	are in place and these are	the nominated Officer as per the
theft, poor				documented	line management staff structure
accounting				Internal controls are at least checked	to inform councillors as
systems				annually by an internal auditor	appropriate
				Informal monitoring, trust and spot	• Insurance company is informed
				checks	as appropriate.
				Regular reporting to councillors	 Investigation to take place with
				through committee	appropriate disciplinary action as
				Investment strategy and policy	necessary
				priorities security and liquidity of	 Police to be informed if
				funds	appropriate.
				Insurance in place to cover any	
				resulting from financial losses	
				Annual review of insurance	
				Limited cash kept on premises	
				Only designated staff have keys to any safes	

				Electronic banking procedure in	
				place with secure passwords	
				Segregation of Duties	
Damage to third	Medium	Medium		Regular health and safety risk	
party property	3	3	9	assessments	
or individuals as				Regular safety checks	
a consequence				Adequate insurance	
of the Town				Training	
Council					
providing					
services or					
amenities to the					
public (Public					
Liability)					
Loss of Towns	Llimb	NA - aliver-			
Loss of Town	High	Medium		Ensure staffing team are briefed,	Chairman of the Town Council to
Clerk/ Key	4	3	12	made aware of interim measures	contact next of kin
Personnel due				and aware of their responsibilities	

to resignation,				Personnel mitigation strategy:	Chairman of the Town Council to
incapacity, long				professional development of all staff,	be informed, who will advise
term illness or				retain training development and	councillors and staff
death				internal opportunities to avoid	 Chairman of the Town Council
				resignation in accordance with the	and Chairman of Personnel to
				employee handbook and recruitment	consider appointment of
				policy	temporary cover
				Ensure all key tasks are prioritised	Recruit temporary replacement
				 Access to log in details, keys and 	Carry out recruitment process to
				passwords are made available as	appointment permanent
				necessary	replacement
Death or serious N	Medium	Low		Knowledge of duties with regard to	Town Clerk or in their absence
injury to	3	2	6	Health & Safety	the nominated Officer as per the
member of staff				Knowledge of duties with regard to	line management staff structure
whilst carrying				employment law and staff	inform councillors and other
out Town				supervision	members of staff
Council duties					• Insurance company informed (if
					appropriate)
					 Health & Safety Executive
					informed (if necessary)

Employers	Medium	Medium		Ensure compliance with Employment	
Liability	3	3	9	Law through use of consultants	
				(Hygiene 2 Health)	
				Comply with Inland Revenue	
				requirements	
				Legal compliance with Town Council	
				activities ensured through advice	
				from staff, SLCC, NALC and	
				solicitors when necessary. Advice	
				recorded in the minutes	
Loss of	High	Low		Co-option of Councillors from waiting	Town Clerk or in their absence
Councillors due	4	2	8	list/ reserves by Cornwall Council if	the nominated Officer as per the
to multiple	7		O	necessary	line management staff structure
resignations				,	to inform remaining councillors
(causing the					and employees of the Town
Town Council to					Council
be inquorate)					Town Clerk or in their absence
					the nominated Officer as per the
					line management staff structure
					to inform Cornwall Council
					Monitoring Officer

All National and	High	Medium		Manage critical works in a safe	Focus on maintaining essential
Global	4	3	12	manner and suspend works as	and important services for the
Emergencies				necessary	Town Council and community
				 Arrange remote working for staff 	Monitor Government and or
				 Ensure the Teams platform is 	other guidance/legislation and
				available to staff and councillors to	incorporate relevant
				hold informal meetings	mechanisms to comply with best
				Check legislation to hold Full	practice for the protection of
				Council, Committee and Sub	staff, councillors and the
				Committee meetings lawfully (CALC)	community of Saltash

4. Responsibilities:

The Town Clerk will take the lead in the event of a major disruption advising the Chairman of the Town Council and Chairman of Personnel and summoning additional resources/personnel as required. In the absence of the Town Clerk the nominated Officer as per the line management staff structure will take lead on this.

5. Insurances:

Saltash Town Council has insurance that covers employer's liability, public liability and risks to buildings a content. Insuarance certificates are visable at all Town Council sites. Full insurance details are held at the Guildhall.

6. Key/Alarm Fob holders contact list:

Saltash Town Council maintain a Key/Alarm holder contact list that is held internally and by the alarm monitoring company and police.

Main contacts list:

Function	Company	Contact number (s)
Gas		
Mains supply	National Gas Helpline	0800 111999 Emergency
Gas Safe Contractor	Jackman	01752 727999
Electric		
Mains supply	Western Power Distribution	13 13 51

Electrical contractor	Pyramid Electrical Services	07546 400747 (Bill) or 01752 916047
Electrical contractor	TJ Electrical	07962 034507
Water		
Mains supply	South West Water	0344 3462020 Emergency
Plumber	Cormac (emergency)	01872 324350 Emergency / 01752 727999
	Jackman	
Insurance		
Insurance Company	Zurich	Property Claims 0800 028 0336
		Liability Claims 0800 783 0692
		DAS Legal Claims 0117 934 2116
Health and Safety		
H&S Consultant	Hygiene 2 Health	07519 125 406
HSE	HSE	Out of Hours 0151 922 9235
Maintenance contractors	S	
Fire alarm	Sovereign Fire & Security	0345 189 9808 / 01752 875 116
Fire extinguishers	Chubb	0344 335 0125

Building Consultant	Barron Surveying	01752 257064
Air Conditioning	Jackman SW Ltd	01752 727999
IT	SOS Consultancy Ltd	0845 643 4878
Telecommunications	Efficient Comms	01752 696967
Staff and Public Health		
	Government Guidelines	https://www.gov.uk/
	Public Health England	0300 303 8162
		https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-
		england
	NHS	111