

## Risk Management Guidance Note 1

# What is Risk Management?

Risks are unavoidable for all organisations, and local authorities and the rest of the public sector are in no way exempt from this. Every action an individual takes carries some sort of risk, and it is vital that people feel comfortable taking risks when it is appropriate to do so. This is what Risk Management helps to achieve.

### What is a Risk?

A risk can be simply defined as:

*Something that might happen that affects the work we do.*

It is important to note that a risk does not necessarily have to be a bad thing!

Positive risks are known as opportunities and risk management is as much about ensuring these are taken advantage of as it is about mitigating threats.

This is the first in a series of risk management guidance notes. They are produced by the Risk Management and Insurance Team.

If you have any queries or suggestions for improvements or future notes, please contact the team either on 01743 252851 or at [insurance@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:insurance@shropshire.gov.uk).

Further documentation and resources can be found on the intranet:  
<http://notes2/intranet/insurance.nsf>

### Defining Risk Management

Risk management can be summed up as:

*The process whereby an organisation tries to ensure that good things do happen and bad things don't.*

It is important that the emphasis is on the positive impact that risk management can have. Risk management is all about helping you to do things, and not stopping you from doing them.

### The Risk Management Strategy

The Council's approach to risk management is outlined in the Strategy.

You can get a copy by downloading it from the intranet or contacting Risk Management and Insurance for a hardcopy.

The strategy outlines what the Council aims to achieve through risk management and how we intend to do it.

Future briefing notes will explain the process of risk management in detail.