#### Amendments as of 16th April 2025

#### **Finances**

- 9. -Added to Controls: Member completes an audit of the financial system annually which is reported back to Finance Committee.
- 10. Added to Controls: Reserves Policy to be introduced.
- 27. Added to Controls: A full report of expenditures against budget is lodged with council at each Finance Committee Meeting including showing material variance explanations. For the purpose 'material' shall be on excess of £1000 or 10% of the budget
- 29. Added to Controls: Potential under or overspend is discussed at Finance Committee and Full Council meetings and material variance explanations are reported. For the purpose 'material' shall be on excess of £1000 or 10% of the budget

#### **Property**

2. Added to Controls: Lease finishes in DEC 2026, therefore plenty of time is necessary beforehand to consider the future use of the asset.

#### **Insurance and Security**

2. Added to Controls: Fidelity Insurance in place to cover monies that Council may hold at any one time.

#### **South Park Pavilion**

Significant change to all sections

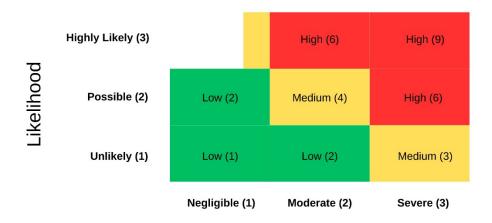


### **Macclesfield Town Council Risk Register**

The risk register is broken down into the following categories:

- Employees
- Finances
- Insurance and Security
- IT
- Legal
- Property
- South Park Pavilion

The matrix below is used to give a score to each risk. This document is reviewed annually at a minimum.



**Impact** 

## **Employees**

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	Provision of a safe and fulfilling working environment for staff	Unsafe or unhealthy working environment will have an impact on staff and their ability to work constructively and positively	1	3	3	H & S risk assessment and policy to keep safe. H and S briefings annually. Covid risk assessment in place and updated with changes. Code of conduct in place for staff and councillors and regular team meetings and appraisals. Staff can work flexibly and from home in consultation with their line manager. Weekly team meetings in place. One staff member is trained in Mental Health in the workplace.	H & S risk assessment updated annually (or as need arises) H & S policy updated annually. Appraisals completed annually.
2	Employees contravene H & S Regs	Results could be an accident, affecting staff and services	1	3	3	H & S, insurance, Risk Assessments regularly checked and updated, Personnel Committee meetings and staff briefings and training.	As above
3	Potential legal proceedings up to corporate manslaughter	Accidents and reputational damage.	1	3	3	Employers Liability insurance Employee training and awareness Solicitor services agreed at annual meeting, as are outsourced HR services. Each event held by MTC has its own risk assessment and equality impact assessment.	Insurance and policies updated annually.

4	Staff retention issues	Impact on staff mental health and on delivery of projects, services and running of the council.	1	3	3	Staff training where appropriate, regular staff meetings. Staff receive informal regular positive feedback and also formal appraisals. Staff are supported by Town Clerk, Chair of Personnel, Mayor and Chair of all Committees. Commitment to staff wellbeing – Town Clerk ensures an open approach to discussing any issues that arise and solving them. Staff have been encouraged to purchase equipment they need to effectively work from home.	Ongoing
5	Insufficient staff or other resources to deliver the service needs	Slower completion of tasks and hold up in projects and services	1	3	3	Staff have good awareness of other team members' essential tasks and can provide cover when required. Team meets weekly to keep each other updated.  Town Clerk to formally monitor and review staff and work levels. Any concerns regarding this to then be brought to Personnel Committee.	Weekly team meetings incorporated
6	Compensation claim from employee for contractual employment defects (including statutory failure)	Reputational damage for Council	1	3	3	Contract of Employment in place (modelled on NALC contract) updated Oct 2020.  Matters relating to staff discussed In confidence and at personnel committee where press and public are excluded. Town Clerk to keep up to date with employment law and seek HR advice where appropriate.	Ongoing support from Wirehouse.

						Supported and underwritten by Wirehouse Employer Services	
7	Loss of services of employee	Impact on delivery of services and projects and smooth running of the council	2	3	6	By distributing knowledge and roles ensure, so far as reasonably practical, that loss of any one employee does not cause unrecoverable damage to business.  Robust recruitment process in place.	Weekly team meetings, training and development policy.
8	Loss of key staff trained in financial systems, process or rules	Inability to pay suppliers in a timely fashion, which could affect projects and services. Implications for internal audit and AGAR. Lack of accurate reports for the Finance Committee and Council.	1	3	3	Staffing arranged so that knowledge is distributed between RFO and Finance Officer. Admin and Governance Manager can carry out the day to day payments and accounts if necessary.	External Accountancy support in place.

### **Finances and Financial Administration**

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	To maintain financial records that are correct and comply with all recommended accounting practice	Adverse audit reports, legal action and loss of confidence in Town Council	1	3	3	Clerk keeps up to date with legislative changes, discusses latest requirements with internal and external auditors Member of ChALC which send regular briefings. Internal auditor reviews record keeping annually Advice taken from internal auditor, external auditor, accountant, SLCC + NALC on changes in regulation	Internal audit review recommendations actioned
2	Records non-compliant or inadequate	Adverse audit reports, legal action and loss of confidence in Town Council	1	3	3	Internal Audit reviews record keeping annually and is on hand to advise on request.  Also advice can be garnered from External Auditor, independent accountant, CHALC, SLCC and NALC on changes and best practice.	

3	To have a clear procedure for authorisation of payments.	Loss of income through error or fraud	1	3	3	Fidelity Guarantee Insurance  Town Clerk continually review controls and current procedures. Checks are in place to minimise this risk. 2 Councillors must authorise all payments and sign cheques and 2 <sup>nd</sup> authorise the online banking account.	Online Banking procedure.
						Debit cards are issued to staff and authorisation procedure is in place.	Debit card procedure and policy.
4	Inappropriate expenditure made	Loss of income	1	3	3	Procedure and controls in place to minimise this risk of inappropriate expenditure. Payments made on the production of a VAT invoices. Payments have to be authorised by 2 Councillors and reported to Finance committee for review and corrective action if necessary  Staff must follow the Debit card policy and procedure.	Debit card procedure and policy.
5	Invoice Payment without authority	Loss of income, fraudulent activity, reputational	1	3	3	All payments reviewed by clerk and reviewed by 2 Councillors before payment is made.	

		damage to the Council				Cheques must be signed by 2 Councillors who are signatories  Online bank payments must be 2 <sup>nd</sup> authorised by a Councillor who is a signatory.	
6	Incoming Cash and cheque misappropriation	Loss of income, fraudulent activity, reputational damage to the Council	1	3	3	Receipts issued for cash payments and for cheque payments on request	
7	Theft of Funds	Loss of income, fraudulent activity, reputational damage to the Council	1	3	3	Bank statements reconciled monthly. Fidelity Insurance in place against theft of funds by staff, Councillors and other persons Incoming cash and cheques stored securely and banked promptly.	
8	Financial Regulations become out of date with change in technology, regulation or business	Not following legal requirements – leading to reputational damage,	1	3	3	Council to review financial regulations once a year  The RFO and Clerk react to any changes in legislation or other areas in order to ensure the regulations are fully compliant and also provide a strong framework compatible with Council's practices	Financial Regulations reviewed annually

9	Lack of budgetary overview/overspend against budget	Council not aware of financial situation and therefore not prepared to make decisions.	1	3	3	Monthly review of income and expenditure by Clerk  Seven week review by Finance Committee  Quarterly review of nominal ledger  Access to online banking means Clerk can have realtime updates on payments and balance of bank account.  Member completes an audit of the financial system annually which is reported back to Finance Committee.	Finance committee meetings
10	Lack of finance to meet unbudgeted, urgent commitments ( with safety or other critical implications)	Inability to make urgent unbudgeted payments	1	3	3	Contingency included in budget Reserves equivalent to at least 2 months spend available. Reserves Policy has been introduced.	
11	Risk of fraudulent VAT numbers from new suppliers	Risk of claiming back VAT inappropriately	1	3	3	VAT numbers for all new suppliers with an expected supplies/services value of £1,000 or more in a financial year will be checked with HMRC register	Ongoing

12	Accounts The RBS Omega accounts system is used which is an accepted accounts package	Skills to use the software and produce accurate results.	1	1	1	A back up is also made at the end of each day held in the cloud.  Hard copies linked to council reports are held on file together with bank reconciliation reports, invoices/receipts/payments and cheques issued  Documents are retained for 12 years
13	The RBS Omega system incorporates a Vat schedule which is an accepted package which allows differentiation between tax rates etc. which is itemised in a full report relating back to the original item within the accounts	Must ensure VAT claimed correctly in order to avoid paying back misappropriated funds and avoid reputational damage.	1	3	3	Vat is applied to all mileage payments at the rate applicable at the time as advise by HMRC  Vat returns are lodged on a annual basis in line with accepted procedures  Clerk checks new suppliers  VAT numbers on the HMRC register  Procedures will be provided to HMRC every three/four years for comments and approval
11	Bank Arrangements	Barclays Bank is used and Public Sector Deposit	1	3	3	One bank account used on a daily basis

		Soldo account is used as a prepaid debit card solution for staff.				Reserves are kept in Public Sector Deposit Fund, there is a small risk as the purchase of PSDF shares is not the same as making a deposit with a bank or other deposit taking body and is not a guaranteed investment. Although it is intended to maintain a stable net asset value per share, there can be no assurance that it will be maintained. Not withstanding the policy of investing in short-term instruments, the value of the PSDF may also be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. The PSDF does not rely on external support for guaranteeing the liquidity of the fund or stabilising the net asset value per share. The risk of loss of principal is borne by the shareholder.	Debit card procedure and policy.
12	Payments to Suppliers		1	3	3	All invoices are checked by the Clerk in advance of payment and if related to an order, this has passed through the ordering procedure.  Each cheque from the main	

						account must be signed by 2 Councillors as detailed on the bank mandates (which are amended when required to ensure that sufficient signatories are available at all times) online payments are authorised by 2 Councillors before the clerk pays them online – a Councillor must 2 <sup>nd</sup> authorise them
13	Standing Orders and Direct Debits	Ensure they are correct, and the services are still necessary.	1	3	3	Standing orders, direct debits are presented to the Finance Committee on an annual basis.  Clerk reviews every month to ensure they are correct and filed appropriately.
14	Transfers	Transfers between bank accounts.	1	3	3	Monies may be transferred between the Councils accounts by the Clerk and authorised by 2 Councillors.
15	Non-Compliance with statutory deadlines for the completion/approval/submission and other financial returns	Reputational damage to the Council	1	3	3	Programme of meetings set annually to ensure deadlines are met
16	Bank Reconciliation	Bank reconciliations ensure that there are no issues with fraud or bank mistakes.	1	2	2	All accounts are reconciled using the RBS Omega system within 5 days of receipt of any statement  Reconciliation is checked by

						an independent accountant as employed by the council, every month.  Any discrepancies are immediately reported to the bank for investigation  Clerk monitors payments on Soldo account (for pre paid debit cards) and this is reconciled and payments recorded.	Debit card procedure and policy.
17	Access to the main bank accounts	Access is restricted however if unauthorised access took place it could result in fraud and loss of finances	1	3	3	As detailed under Banking arrangements & Procedures above, no one person has access to monies held in the main accounts	
18	Hire Charges	For equipment or rooms etc	1	1	1	Council agree the charges  The office must abide by these rates and any requests for preferential rates must be made by the hirer to Council for their approval	

						All bookings must be paid for in advance to avoid bad debts other block bookers are invoiced or given the option of paying the sites on a weekly basis	
19	Cash collected for allotment rents and community events	Ensuring cash collected is banked and correctly	1	2	2	At the office the cash is emptied and counted manually within one working day by at least two members of staff All cash collected at events is collected by appointed staff and a receipt is always issued (eg markets income)	
20	Petty Cash	N/A				N/A	No petty cash in operation
21	Processing and banking	Inaccurate processing and banking could lead to inaccurate financial reports	1	2	2	When the money is received it is balanced within the office against any receipts/invoices and any discrepancies are followed up  When the monies have been balanced, it is input onto the RBS Omega system and all entry references are printed out and retained  A unique pay in reference is	

						applied to each batch of banking which is loaded onto the RBS Omega system which is then checked against the bank reconciliation	
22	Expenditure/income coded incorrectly	Inaccurate financial reports	1	3	3	Town Clerk checks nominal ledger every quarter Items are coded	
23	Incorrect entries by bank	Loss of income – inaccurate financial reports.	1	3	3	Bank statements reconciled monthly Any issues are immediately investigated by the Clerk	Reviewed monthly
24	Annual Audit	Important to ensure the council is managing finances in accordance with regulations. Issues within the AGAR could affect Council negatively, loss of trust and reputational damage.	1	3	3	The annual auditor is appointed and directs the format and structure of the audit in line with current legislation and requirements  Audit costs and levels of requirement are determined by government legislation based upon the annual income or expenditure levels  The Town Clerk completes the year end accounts to audit trial level and prepares any	

						additional reports required by the external auditor  The Town Clerk presents the completed Annual Return, Financial Statement and other documentation required to Council in line with the timescales provided by the external auditor  Once these have been formally adopted and signed by Council, they are lodged with external auditors  Any queries raised by the auditors are dealt with by the Town Clerk in the first instance  Final sign-off by the external auditor is presented to Council	
25	Annual Budget & Precept Calculations	Budget and precept calculations should be careful and considered as it sets the level paid by residents within the council tax.	1	3	3	The annual budget and precept calculations are initially calculated in October/November based upon the performance of the prior year and incorporating projected requirements which have been lodged by the office and council members	Budget v actual reviewed monthly by clerk, 7 weekly at Finance Committee meetings. Budget set annually.

The Town Clerk also completes a mid-year review in October for the current year to calculate possible year end surpluses which may be incorporated within the future budget. The actual precept level is then calculated from the balance sheet assuming that the remainder of the current year's budget will be utilised in order to estimate the year end bank balance

The new budgeted income, expenditure and reserves are then set against this balance in order to calculate a budget shortfall on which the future precept is based

The new budget is discussed and fine-tuned through the October, November and December Council and Committee meetings after the up to date number of band D properties have been confirmed by CEC discuss & amend any highlighted budget levels in order to best achieve, an acceptable precept level

						Comprehensive minutes are recorded at each stage to substantiate the budget development	
26	Internal Audit	Internal audit to ensure compliance and effectiveness of financial controls and managing funding effectively.	1	3	3	The Internal Auditor is approved annually by Council at the AGM and completed an annual internal audit and end of year audit as part of the AGAR.	
27	Setting and Monitoring of Budgets	Setting a comprehensive budget and monitoring of budgets to ensure accurate information to make sound financial decisions	1	3	3	The final budget is approved in December /January and CEC is immediately advised of the precept  On-going daily expenditures have already been incorporated within the budget and the RFO monitors invoices etc. against the budget schedule to confirm that they are within the limits  All orders are checked against the accounts system to verify expenditure within the account code to date and the remaining budget  Any over expenditure is highlighted and brought to the	Budget monitored by Clerk monthly and finance committee every 7 weeks.

						A full report of expenditures against budget is lodged with council at each Finance Committee Meeting including showing material variance explanations. For the purpose 'material' shall be on excess of £1000 or 10% of the budget  This incorporates a print out of the income and expenditure against each annual budget and the cashbook extract  Any that do not meet the budget levels are highlighted by member if needed along with committed expenditure	
28	Supplier Procurement .	Ensure due diligence when selecting suppliers to insure VAT is correctly reimbursed and combat fraud	1	3	3	Check the VAT number of new suppliers who are registered for VAT to ensure against fraud.  Due diligence completed during the procurement of contracts process.  Insurance and liability is included in the procurement	

29	Reporting	Ensure due diligence and accurate information is provided to the Council and to meet transparency requirements	1	3	3	Reports provided to each Finance Committee are:  Receipts and Payments  Bank Reconciliation  Income and Expenditure  Authorised Payments  Potential under or overspend is discussed at Committee and Full Council meetings and material variance explanations are reported. For the purpose 'material' shall be on excess of £1000 or 10% of the budget  Local Government Transparency is adhered to:  Expenditure over £500 (every quarter)  AGAR and Audits  ITT and opportunities to quote  Information about Counter Fraud (annually)	Every Finance Committee Meeting (approx. every 7 weeks)
30	Managing Investment	Ensure reserves and investments are managed and there is an awareness of the risks.				Treasury Management and Investment Strategy implemented at Full Council on 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.	Annual Investment position statement circulated to Council at Annual Council meeting.

## **Insurance and Security**

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	د Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	Insurable risks	In appropriate levels of insurance to cover risk, leave council uninsured	1	3	3	Public Liability limit of cover £12,000,000  Employers Liability Limit of cover £10,000,000	Insurance reviewed annually
2	Theft of money by employee or member	Loss of finances for council and negative reputational damage	1	3	3	Fidelity Insurance in place to cover monies that Council may hold at any one time.  Financial Controls in place ( see finance section)	Insurance reviewed annually Financial controls reviewed within this document annually.

3	Council owned building and allotments	Inappropriate insurance is a risk to the property.	2	2	4	Cover for buildings & contents	Reviewed annually.
4	Officials Indemnity	Covered to project officials	2	2	4	Cover of £250,000	Limit £250,000
5	Libel and Slander	Reputational damage to council	2	2	4	Cover £250,000	Limit £250,000
6	Personal Accident	Insurance for staff	1	3	3	Insurance covers  H & S risk assessment, policy and risk assessment for every MTC event	Limit £2,000,000
7	Legal disputes	Ability to ensure council follows all legalities	1	3	3	Cover for specified legal disputes	Limit £100,000
8	Insurance Provider	Must be a reputable provider	1	3	3	3 Quotes sought in March 2024, Zurich are providing insurance for the next 3/5 years.	Insurance details reviewed annually and 3 quotes will be sought in again in 20207/9

9	Business	Inability to	1	3	3	Potential alternative premises, IT back-up	Limit of cover
	Interruption	deliver				off site and ability to restore onto hired	£50,000
		services and				equipment etc	
		projects for				Cover in place for excess costs	
		residents				Working from home is viable	
10	Office security	Impact of staff	1	3	3	MTC staff work in Macclesfield Town Hall	H&S policy
		safety, and all				which has door security.	and risk
		data and				Data and information is all backed up in the	assessment
		information.				cloud.	reviewed
						Secure documents are kept in lockable files	annually
						Key press in situ	
						Lone work and H&S policy in place.	
						Office is alarmed – CEC hold contract.	

## IT

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	IT Security, safety of information/risk of loss of data	Data breach could cause reputational damage to the council and break data	1	3	3	Microsoft Office 365 installed on all PCs  Allows for cloud back up of information  Allows for cloud storage of all council data – more secure than onsite storage.	As of October 2018. Also supports compliant Data protection

		protection laws				We use office 365 with sharepoint (a cloud based system) which facilitates off site/remote working.	2018 legalities and operation and Cyber Security Training has been incorporated since 2020.
2	Loss of internet service	Inability to complete work and communicate, particularly during Covid pandemic.	2	3	6	Internet with reputable provider provided by CEC, Data allowance on mobile phone in emergency.	
3	Equipment failure	Unable to complete tasks	1	3	3	Budgeted annual amount for IT proposes.  To monitor photocopier contract and look to other ways to print documents.	
4	Staff untrained for new software	Unable to complete tasks or tasks are completed inaccurately	1	3	3	Robust training and development policy with a training budget set aside annually.	

# Legal

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	To ensure that all actions taken by the Town Council comply with all current Legislation	Non- compliance with legislation or practice Council being 'Ultra Vires'	1	3	3	Town Clerk to keep up to date with changes in legislation, seek advice from SLCC, ChALC, NALC and others as necessary The Clerk reacts to any changes in legislation, requests from Town Council or other areas in order to ensure the regulations are fully compliant and also provide a strong framework compatible with Council practices Solicitor services on retention as are HR consultants, Internal auditor and accountancy support all agreed by Full Council annually.  Governance documents, polices and procedures are periodically reviewed with each full council meeting having an agenda item entitled governance review.  Annually the following are reviewed: This Risk Register  Town Clerk completed CILCA	

2	Non- compliance with statutory deadlines for the completion/a pproval/submi ssion of accounts and other financial returns	1	3	3	Programme of meetings to meet statutory deadlines	
3	Loss of documentation	1	3	3	Deeds and other legal documents relating to real estate stored in the office	

# **Property**

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	Allotments MTC owns however many are managed by Independent	Need to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose and allow as many residents as	2	2	4	Allotments are insured. Several allotments are maintained by their own allotment association.	Ongoing communication with allotment associations.

	Allotment Associations	possible to enjoy them				The Town council inspects allotments to ensure they are being used appropriately.  Policy is updated periodically – recently updated at Full Council 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024  Town Council will fund unsafe trees to insure health and safety.	Allotments managed by MTC are subject to inspections by MTC Officers.
2	Weston Community Centre owned by MTC with long term tenants	Tenants may not look after building.  Tenants may decide to end lease.	2	2	4	Lease is a full repair lease, the tenants must produce a risk assessment and a fire risk assessment and other safety checks. Wirehouse (Council contracted HR and H+S) complete annual health and safety visit. Insurance covers the structure of the building.  If tenants leave, new tenants would be sought.  Lease finished in DEC 2026, therefore plenty of time is necessary beforehand to consider the use of the asset.	Reviewed annually
3	Taking Care of assets.	Assets could be stolen of misplaced. Insurance may not be of appropriate value.	1	3	3	An asset list is maintained by the Town Council Office.  This is updated throughout the year	Review of asset register to be completed annually and

						from new assets which are in addition, a schedule of road furniture/bins/dog bins/bus shelters play area equipment etc., will be kept on a secondary list  The asset list is circulated to staff on an annual basis to ensure that all items are correct and submitted to Council for review with the annual accounts.  Assets are kept in an alarmed building with security.	circulated to Council at Annual Council Meeting.
4	Taking over assets from CEC-currently South Park Pavilion. (Also see next section)	This project will cost a significant amount of money and expertise.	2	3	6	Due diligence to be undertaken prior to the transfer of any assets.  Heads of Terms agreed, the lease will not be signed until  a.) Planning Permission for the new building is granted b.) Finances have been secured  Business plan to be reviewed ongoing.  Reserves to be used, however important to ensure reserves do not go below the threshold, therefore external funding may be necessary.	MTC have set up a South Park Pavilion Working Party to guide the building design and the public consultation. Assistance from Chalc, CEC and experts in the area of building and procurement on this scale will be sought.  Public consultation

			complete and
			loan applied for.

### **South Park Pavilion**

Risk No.	Description	Impact	Likelihood Score	Impact Score	Risk Rating	Control	Review Date and Response
1	Funding	Insufficient funding will mean that the project cannot go ahead.	1	3	3	The Council has EMR reserves for the project.  Grants and funding bids are being made.  Local businesses have been invited to contribute.	
		PWL was successfully granted in June 6 <sup>th</sup> 2024 however must be drawn down within one year				Extension to loan draw down period has been applied for	May 2025

2	Rising Costs	Costs of	3	2	6	Contractor is PE Jones.	
	of construction	construction have risen considerably and therefore the cost of construction				The Council have a Quantity Surveyor for the project who advises on costs and future costs.	
		has increased. Continued rising costs once construction starts could affect the project build.				Costs are guaranteed until June 25	
3	VAT	If VAT applies it will add significant expenses to the budget	2	2	4	Advice is being sought from expert S.Parkinson to ensure appropriate information around VAT. MTC is now VAT registered and has 'opted to tax' on the pavilion building.	Council has opted to tax i
4	Running of the building once built	How the building is run and by whom will have impact on the VAT	3	2	6	MTC have worked with a hospitality consultant and will tender out the café to a local business to run.  MTC will run the upstairs event space of the building.	Ongoing work for Council to find and work with the right provider
5	Lease	CEC have yet to issue a lease				Awaiting the lease slows down the whole project and puts at risk deadlines of the loan and costs guaranteed to June 2025.	Ongoing
6	Sustainability	The building must make enough to sustain itself				Working with the hospitality consultant to accurately budget and predict income.	Ongoing

Full Council 19 05 25 Agenda Item 9.1