

REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL

Report Reference F-25-11
Meeting Date 9th March 2026
Agenda Item 7
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The Town Council has both statutory and risk management requirements to hold a suite of insurances. The council's insurance provider was last reviewed in 2020 when the council entered into a five-year agreement with Zurich insurance; this agreement ends in May 2026.

The council continually reviews its insurance provision and adjustments are made as necessary (such as to revised insured items/sums) throughout any term. As part of the renewal process the values of all insurances were reviewed and the Town Clerk has contacted the four sector insurance providers for proposals: Zurich, Clear Councils, Gallaghers and James Hallam.

2.0 OVERVIEW

2.1 INSURANCE COVER

Insurance	Overview
Buildings	cover provided at reinstatement values from last building surveys uplifted where appropriate.
Business Interruption	cover for loss of income for the public toilets, market hall, chapel and commercial spaces in public toilets for a 24 month period in the event of an insured event.
Contents	all risks cover for the council's assets. Includes the war memorial and obelisk, benches, planters, noticeboards, computers etc.
Money	covers loss of cash
Public Liability	covers sums that the council may be liable for including damages and costs for e.g. accidental damage to property and injury
Hirers' Liability	provides public liability insurance to hirers of council assets (e.g. in the chapel and market hall) and provides cover to the council for any accidental damage they may do.
Employer's Liability	statutory insurance for liability for any injury caused to employees during employment and at the council's request it extends to members and volunteers.
Libel and Slander	covers liability for costs incurred in defending claims/damages for libel and slander.
Fidelity Guarantee	covers loss of money due to fraud
Personal Accident	provides a payment in the event of employees suffering an accident or

	assault during work on a scale based on impact (e.g. loss of a tooth to death), provides a similar cover for volunteers and members.
Legal Expenses	covers costs in defending (and compensation awards) in a range of instances e.g. criminal/civil prosecution, property damage, trespass, contract disputes.
Vehicles	covers costs in defending (and compensation awards) in a range of instances e.g. criminal/civil prosecution, property damage, trespass, contract disputes.

2.2 PROPOSALS

Only Zurich returned a proposal in time for inclusion in this report. James Hallam declined to provide a quote (due to 60 King Street being vacant). Proposals are awaited from Clear Councils and Gallaghers; the Town Clerk will report on them if received in time for the meeting.

Insurer	1 year agreement	3 year agreement
Zurich	12,218.23	11,091.74
Clear Councils	<i>awaited</i>	<i>awaited</i>
Gallaghers	<i>awaited</i>	<i>awaited</i>

2.3 APPRAISAL

The council had been in a fixed term agreement since 2021 and the council's current insurers (Zurich) had warned that premiums could rise as much as 55%. In preparing the council's budget for 2026, insurance budgets were uplifted by 60% with a total budget of £15,385.

The council has been insured with Zurich for a long time; they have offered good service with a named contact providing advice swiftly when required. Zurich do not charge a fee to make amendments to the policy throughout the term and have often waived minor increases until the following year. Claims the council has made have been dealt with efficiently. Zurich has withdrawn from offering five-year fixed rate deals, the only options are therefore a single year or three year agreement. It would be prudent to fix insurance rates for the longer term.

Subject to receipt of any further proposals, it is therefore recommended the council enters into a three-year agreement with Zurich. The precise costs will vary each year based on any changes to cover (e.g. annual uplift in building reinstatement valuation, addition of assets) and insurance premium tax.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee approves renewal of the insurance with Zurich on a three-year deal.