

# **PUBLIC SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT SYLLABUS**

The syllabus sets out the aim of the subject and its specific learning objectives. The range of knowledge and understanding that is expected of students is set out in subject content.

Any syllabus in a dynamic area of study such as risk management must, of necessity, be written in general terms. It is however the responsibility of students to ensure that their knowledge is up to date, within the broad parameters laid down by the syllabus for any subject. Hence, details included in the syllabus are not to be looked upon as exhaustive.

## ***Aim***

To develop students' understanding of risk management in the public sector

## ***Learning objective***

Students should understand the impact of risk and of legal liabilities on the operations in the public sector acting in pursuit of their statutory duties and their democratically determined policies.

## ***Subject content***

- a) The relationship between local authorities and areas of devolved responsibility such as DLOs, DSOs, GMS Schools etc
- b) Understanding risk holistically within a public sector context
- c) Understanding the regulatory mechanisms in the public sector, taking account of both UK and EU legislation
- d) Understanding the impact of legislation in the risk management of a public sector organisation; including: Highways Act, Housing Act, Local Government and Housing Act 1988, Education Act, complaints mechanisms, service standard units, care in the community, competitive tendering
- e) Understanding the financial and fiscal environment in which a public sector organisation operates, including their impact of exemption from corporation tax and VAT, the ability to raise capital, the implications of capital accounting, revenue accounting compared to balance sheet accounting, the differentiation between funds and provisions so far as the Local Government and House Act 1988 is concerned, investment constraints, role of Audit Commission
- f) Appreciating the holistic role of the risk manager in local government, and central government, including the recognition of inability to eradicate risk from any function or sector.
- g) Balance of Risk Management, Service and fixed budgets
- h) Social services risks, behavioural difficulties, children
- i) Risks associated with abuse claims etc against staff working in these areas
- j) The affect of public perception on the local authority environment.