

REVIEW OF HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



For Approval

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report proposes an amendment to the Authority's Health and Safety Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the Authority's revised Health and Safety Policy, set out as Appendix A as follows:
- i. Amend the Health and Safety Policy to include a Risk Statement at Section 3 (Page 16)
 - ii. To nominate the Head of Operational Policy and Planning as the Competent Person for health and safety purposes

3. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY REVIEW

- 3.1 Following a personal injury accident in October 2020, an investigation report, recommendations and risk control plan were approved by ELT at its Policy Meeting in March 2021.
- 3.2 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires the Authority to maintain a current policy, which sets out its general approach to managing health and safety. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires the Authority to maintain management systems to control risks in the workplace. This includes the provision of suitable and sufficient risk assessments.
- 3.3 In line with current guidance from the Health and Safety Executive, employers should monitor and review any measures put in place to help control risk and prevent accidents. In addition, findings from accident investigations should form the basis of action to prevent the accident or incident from happening again.
- 3.4 In accordance with good practice, the Authority's Health and Safety Policy, risk assessments and associated Health and Safety Strategy have been reviewed.

4. PROPOSED CHANGES TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

4.1 The amended Health and Safety Policy is set out as Appendix A.

4.2 Local Risk Assessment Process

4.2.1 The Health and Safety Policy has been amended to include details of the local risk assessment process and a clear risk statement. The risk statement clarifies the Authority's position on realistic training. The risk statement supports the local risk assessment process and is intended to enable realistic and safe station based training.

4.3 Proposed Change

4.3.1 The Health and Safety Policy has been amended to include a Risk Statement at Section 3 (Page 16).

4.4 Identification of a Competent Person

4.4.1 The Policy review proposes a re-designation of the Competent Person for health and safety purposes. Under the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999, it is a requirement to identify an individual with sufficient training, experience and knowledge to ensure that the Authority complies with its statutory provisions.

4.4.2 The Health and Safety Policy sets out the Chief Fire Officers responsibilities in respect of this (Section 2.3, Page 5).

4.4.3 Due to a recent re-structure, it is necessary to designate a post to be the competent person to provide functional safety management on a daily basis. From a strategic management perspective, the Director of Community Protection will remain as the Director with overall responsibility for the health and safety reference.

4.5 Proposed Change

4.5.1 The Head Operational Policy and Planning will be the nominated Competent Person for health and safety purposes. The post holder's responsibilities are set out in Section 2.5 (Pages 6–7) of the Health and Safety Policy.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Subject to approval, employee representatives will be consulted on this policy change. This will discharge the Authority's duty under the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 and the Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996.

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