

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

7 OCTOBER 2013

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the Legionella policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the policy be approved with immediate effect.

2.2 That the Head of Regulatory Services has delegated authority to amend the policies in line with Health & Safety legislation and best practice guidance.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Legionella

The Council is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of its employees and those affected by its activities. This policy is to ensure that suitable and sufficient assessments are undertaken of work activities and water systems to determine the risks arising from Legionella bacteria, in order to:

- Avoid significant risks, so far as is reasonably practicable; or
- Develop control schemes to reduce significant risks.

That monitoring arrangements are established to ensure that any precautions taken to avoid or reduce the risks remain effective and that suitable records are kept

In practice the policy is in operation; the assessments have been completed and monitoring is now carried out and the details are recorded.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The policies will apply to all staff across the Council

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any financial implications will be met from existing budgets

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 No direct implications although the policies reflect good practice and comply with current health and safety legislation.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no direct community safety implications.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 Legionnaires' disease is about three times more common in men than women, and mostly affects people over 50 years old. In 2010 more the 52% of case reported in England & Wales were contracted abroad. The policy takes this into account.

9.0 RISKS

- 9.1 Breaches of Health and Safety law give the courts considerable scope for punishing offenders and deterring others. For example, a failure to comply with an improvement or prohibition notice, or a court remedy order, carries a fine of up to £20 000, or six months' imprisonment, or both. Unlimited fines and in some cases imprisonment may be imposed by higher courts.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 10.1 There are no climate change implications.

11.0 CONSULTATION

- 11.1 The Safety Committee has been consulted and contributed to the content of the policies prior to their completion. The policy has been presented to the Joint Staff Working Group and subsequently to this Committee.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

- 12.1 All Wards are affected, as the Policies relate to all Council staff and the work they carry out.

Contact Officer: Sarah Burton
Date: 30th September 2013
Appendices : Appendix 1: Legionella Policy

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