

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services

to
Cabinet

on
23rd September 2014

Report prepared by: Steve Wall & Richard Potticary
People and Policy

Agenda
Item No.

Review of Corporate Health and Safety Policy Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Executive Councillor: Councillor Woodley

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the revisions made to the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy, attached as Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the revisions to the H&S Policy, attached as Appendix 1, be approved and the revised policy be adopted as Council Policy.**

3 Background

- 3.1 SBC recently underwent a Quality Safety Audit, (QSA), conducted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, (RoSPA), as part of the requirements outlined in the 2013/2014 Corporate health and safety action plan. Following the QSA and the implementation of actions identified by RoSPA, the Authority will demonstrate an overall health and safety performance commensurate to a QSA Level 5 Diamond Award.
- 3.2 The revised policy, (attached as Appendix 1), addresses the recommendation identified during the QSA for the Policy to be revised incorporating greater clarification for the health and safety responsibilities for all levels of staff within the Authority.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

- 4.1.1 No additional resources are required as H&S is already a responsibility of all line managers and staff. However, effective management of H&S will enable resources to be directed to making progress with all priorities rather than reacting to increased work that follows accidents and claims for compensation.

4.2 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities

4.2.2 Effective management of H&S issues will assist the Council in its stated aims of providing a safe, healthy and prosperous place of work by engaging staff whilst also reducing the rate of accidents, sickness levels and potential claims against the Council.

4.3 Consultation

4.3.1 Consultation with recognised trade unions is a core principle within the H&S Policy.

4.4 Equalities Impact Assessment:

4.4.1 To improve opportunities for employment by controlling and reducing risk to employees, and others, with mobility or other special needs.

4.5 Risk Assessment

4.5.1 Inadequate or ineffective management of H&S is likely to increase the likelihood of Council being prosecuted for breach of its statutory duties and also more likely to be unable to prepare a defence against legal claims arising from negligence.

4.6 Value for Money

4.6.1 Implementing the policy throughout the Council will help to ensure that available resources are directed to making improvements rather than reacting to accidents and ill health.

4.7 Community Safety Implications

4.7.1 None

4.8 Environmental Impact

4.8.1 The effects of work practice on the environment is an important factor of the risk assessment process. Embedding the practice of risk assessment across the Council will assist in the identification of processes and practices that have the potential to damage the environment.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 - Revised Health and Safety Policy