

## COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

17 MARCH 2017

### Health and Safety Policy review

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Margaret Squires  
**Responsible Officer:** Michael Lowe (Health and Safety Officer)

**Reason for Report:** To advise Members that, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Works Act 1974, the Council's Health and Safety at Works Policy has been reviewed by the Health and Safety Committee and that all actions from the report dated 27 September 2016 are being undertaken.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Members to note that the Health and Safety Policy was approved by the JNCC on 12 January 2017, following review by the Health and Safety Committee and Unison. Members to also note the action points in the report to the Community PDG have been reviewed by the Health and Safety Committee and have subsequently been undertaken.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Health and safety impacts across all aspects of the corporate plan as there is an obligation on the Council to ensure that its activities do not adversely affect the health and safety of employees, members of the public, contractors and others with whom we interact.

**Financial Implications:** Failure to meet the Council's obligations could lead to serious financial implications. The maximum penalty for failing to discharge its duties are unlimited., In addition, to this would also be the costs involved in any litigation in the Civil Courts.

**Legal Implications:** Failing to comply with Health and Safety legislation and regulations could result in the Council being issued with Improvement/Prohibition Notices and/or prosecution. The Council would also be at risk of potential civil litigation.

**Risk Assessment:** Ensuring the Council has robust health and safety policies and procedures, which are proactively monitored, will ensure the health and safety of employees and those who are affected by its actions and also reduce the potential risk of legal challenges and civil litigation.

#### 1.0 Update

- 1.1 The Health and Safety Policy was reviewed by the Health and Safety Committee on 9 January 2017 and, following consultation with Unison, recommended to the JNCC committee for approval.
- 1.2 The Health and Safety Policy was approved by JNCC on 12 January 2017.
- 1.3 The future actions in the report to the Community PDG dated 27 September are now being implemented and form part of the Health and Safety Business Plan for 2017-18.

## **2.0 Future actions**

- 2.1 In accordance with the Health and Safety at Works Act 1974, the Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations, Mid Devon District Council will continue to review the Health and Safety Policy on an annual basis, with approval by the JNCC.

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**Circulation of the Report:** Members of Community PDG, Cllr Squires, Management Team