



Health & Safety Policy

General Statement of Intent & Arrangements

Contents

Health & Safety Policy – General Statement of Intent	3
BDC’s Health & Safety Management	4
Policy Governance	5
Health & Safety Policy – Arrangements	5
1. Responsibilities	5
2. Corporate Management Team	8
3. Corporate H & S and Emergency Planning Operational Group	9
4. Health & Safety Forum	9
5. Trade Unions	9
6. Health & Safety in Partnership Working & Contracted Out Work	9
7. Policies, Procedures & Guidance	10
8. Health & Safety Training/Competence.....	10
9. Monitoring.....	10
10. Review.....	10
11. References	10
12. Document Control	10

Health & Safety Policy – General Statement of Intent

Breckland District Council is committed to the health, safety and welfare of our employees and others who may be affected by our activities.

We will make provisions for health, safety and wellbeing according to the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and subsequent regulations made under the Act. As an organisation we will comply with our legislative requirements.

We will provide, according to the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- Safe plant and machinery;
- Safe systems of work;
- Safe handling, storage and use of substances;
- Information, instruction, training and supervision so that employees are competent in their job;
- Control and maintenance of the workplace;
- Safe access and egress;
- A safe working environment.

The Council recognises that employees are a vital asset, and is committed to the prevention of injury and ill health, and to the health, safety and welfare of non-employees, who may be affected by the Council's work activities.

We have developed various audit/inspection tools as our mechanism for achieving this. In doing so, we will strive for continual improvement in our management of health and safety.

The Council will:

- Recognise that safety is of paramount importance and an integral part of all its activities;
- Be committed to the systematic identification of hazards, control of risk and compliance with applicable legal requirements and other requirements to which it subscribes;
- Communicate and consult with employees on matters relating to the health and safety, policies, procedures guidance and performance monitoring;
- Establish and maintain an effective health and safety management structure with individual posts having clearly defined safety responsibilities and competencies;
- Provide adequate financial, human and physical resources to provide a working environment that protects the health and safety of our employees and those using our facilities.

However, successful implementation will rely heavily on the co-operation of those who actually carry out the work and take the risks, to act responsibly and to do everything they can to prevent personal injury to themselves, other employees and those affected by our activities.

The Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Team, Corporate Management Team, Senior Managers, Team Leaders and People Managers have defined responsibilities for the management of health and safety, as detailed in the Arrangements under "Responsibilities". Their performance and that of the Council as a whole will be regularly monitored. Details of the management structure and the arrangements for implementing the Policy are contained within this document.

The overall responsibility for this Policy rests with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. They will be assisted by the Strategic Leadership and Corporate Management Teams and the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor in ensuring that the Health & Safety Policy is implemented, developed, monitored, maintained and reviewed.

Signed: _____ (Leader of the Council) Dated: _____

Signed: _____ (Chief Executive) Dated: _____

BDC's Health & Safety Management

POLICY

"General Statement of Intent" regarding Health & Safety
Signed by the Leader of the Council & Chief Executive

Organisation Health & Safety Policy
A written statement of the Council's Policy and organisational arrangements – Signed by the Leader of the Council & Chief Executive

Corporate Health & Safety Policies and Procedures
providing detail on specific subjects

RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Executive
Responsible for compliance with health and safety Legislation

Strategic Leadership Team, Corporate Management Team and Senior Managers
Responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation, policies and procedures within their services

Team Leaders & People Managers
Responsible for ensuring compliance with legislation, policies and procedures within their area of control

Designated Employees
Carry out additional specified health & safety related duties

Council Employees
Responsible for their own health & safety and that of others who may be affected by their work

SUPPORT & ADVICE

Champion of Health & Safety
Assitant Director Health & Housing
Health & Safety issues with ability to feed into CMT

Corporate Health & Safety Advisor
Provides advice, support, guidance and training, undertakes audits and inspection, and maintains the Health & Safety Management system.

Trade Union appointments and Safety Representatives who represent employees on health & safety issues, and carry out health & safety Inspections.

Senior Management Team
Review health & safety performance and related issues.

Trade Union Liaison
Discuss new and emerging health, safety and related issues.

Health & Safety Training
Provided or supported by the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor and external organisations

VERIFIERS

Health & Safety Forum / Corporate H & S and Emergency Planning Operational Group/ Internal / External Audit
Verification through audits, inspections and reports

Organisation Insurers / Trade Union Reps
External verification of compliance

Policy Governance

The following table identifies who is accountable, responsible, informed or consulted with in regard to this procedure.

- Responsible – the person(s) responsible for developing the procedure;
- Accountable – the person(s) who has ultimate accountability and authority for the procedure;
- Consulted – the person(s) or groups to be consulted prior to final procedure implementation or amendment;
- Informed – the person(s) or groups to be informed after procedure implementation or amendment.

Responsible	Corporate Health & Safety Advisor
Accountable	Chief Executive
Consulted	Breckland Council Health & Safety Forum Members (including representation from unions recognised by BDC) / Corporate H & S and Emergency Planning Operational Group.
Informed	ALL employees of the Council

Health & Safety Policy – Arrangements

1. Responsibilities

Whilst the council, as the employer, has overall responsibility for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all its employees, and those not in their employ, various aspects of the Health & Safety Policy have been delegated as shown below:

The Leader of the Council & Elected Members have significant influence and responsibility for health and safety in terms of providing leadership, direction, strategy and appropriate budget setting allowing for the safe management of health and safety. They are not responsible for day-to-day management of health and safety.

The Chief Executive shall have overall responsibility for health and safety across the council, and lead in setting corporate Policy and direction.

Strategic Leadership, Corporate Management and Senior Management Teams are responsible for:

- Supporting the Chief Executive in meeting their health and safety responsibilities for the Council.
- Ensuring that that robust health and safety management systems exist within the council and that all Service Areas demonstrate compliance.

Champion of Health & Safety (Assistant Director Health & Housing) leads on health and safety issues at the CMT level, including:

- Providing overall support and direction to the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor;
- Ensuring a suitable Chair is in place for the Health & Safety Forum on behalf of the Assistant Director Health and Housing.

CMT will formally sign off Health and Safety Policies and Procedures, reports and guidance. CMT will monitor performance and hold managers to account for non-compliance in their respective areas.

Corporate H & S and Emergency Planning Operational Group will meet on a regular basis to discuss all matters relating to Health and Safety and Emergency Planning and will receive information from the Health & Safety Forum for consideration.

Health & Safety Forum is responsible for ensuring effective communication, and consultation in matters involving the health, safety and welfare of all those affected by the work of the council.

Service Managers are accountable to the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team for ensuring that the Health & Safety Policy and procedures are complied with within their Service Areas. Duties may be delegated (but not responsibility) to team leader and/or people managers and other delegated employees as necessary, but they remain responsible for:

- Being familiar with the Health & Safety Policy and procedures, and any relevant risk assessments and safe systems of work;
- Providing leadership on occupational health and safety;
- Ensuring the availability of resources essential to establish, implement, maintain and improve the health and safety management system;
- Defining roles, allocating responsibilities and accountabilities, and delegating authorities, to facilitate effective health and safety management;
- Ensuring, by means of job descriptions or by other means such as annual reviews, that Managers, and others in supervisory roles, are made aware of the areas and extent to their specific health and safety responsibilities;
- Ensuring that such measures necessary (including disciplinary action, training, etc.) are taken to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any breach of health and safety procedures or legislation;
- Co-operating with trade union health and safety representatives in accordance with agreed processes;
- Ensuring adequate inspections and monitoring of health and safety procedures are undertaken;
- Ensuring the systematic assessment of hazards and the effective implementation of risk management systems;
- Ensuring the maintenance of statutory and other testing and examination of equipment and the keeping of registers and records where necessary is undertaken;
- Ensuring the necessary information, instruction, training and supervision is provided to their employees;
- Keeping themselves informed of incidents or accidents within their area of control, and ensure that action is taken in order to prevent recurrence;
- Ensuring the effective safety management of contractors carrying out works within their area of responsibility;
- Providing adequate time and facilities for safety representatives;
- Ensuring that the necessary resources are available to employees to fulfil their health and safety obligations;
- Appointing suitable trained and qualified “designated employees” to carry out specified health and safety duties within their Service Areas;

Team Leaders and People Managers are accountable for the effective implementation of the Health & Safety Policy and procedures within their area of control. Whilst some duties may be specifically designated, those having a management or supervisory responsibility will be responsible for:

- Ensuring they are familiar with the Health & Safety Policy and procedures and any relevant risk assessments and safe systems of work;
- Ensuring they are aware of health and safety requirements and provide information, instruction, training and supervision to new and existing employees under their control to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, their health and safety and that of others affected by their activity;
- Carrying out a first day induction for all new employees, agency workers and contractors;
- Ensuring that employees under their control are adequately trained and fully aware of the hazards involved in the work undertaken;
- Communicating the key findings of risk assessments related to the work undertaken by employees under their control;
- Developing safe systems of work and, by information, instruction, training and supervision, particularly in the case of young and inexperienced workers, ensure maximum safety for all employees;
- Ensuring that any information, instruction and training is understood and recorded;

- Reporting and investigating all accidents, incidents, near misses and violent and aggressive incidents with a view to taking such measures to prevent recurrence;
- Undertaking inspections and monitoring to ensure that safety measures are being maintained and that all employees are following safety instructions and safe practices;
- Ensuring that Team Meetings regularly occur and always include Health & Safety as a standing item, providing opportunities for employees to be consulted on matters which affect their health, safety and wellbeing;
- Co-operating with trade union health and safety representatives in accordance with agreed processes;
- Arranging for the provision of safety equipment and protective clothing, where necessary;
- Ensuring all training is completed in a timely manner to ensure compliance;
- Ensuring, where employees work away from their normal office location, that their health, safety and welfare is suitably managed e.g. agile working

Designated Employees – Management may designate specific employees to carry out specified health and safety duties in addition to their normal duties and responsibilities. This may include for example:

- Champion of Health & Safety;
- Health & Safety Forum Members;
- Fire Wardens;
- First Aiders / Appointed Persons.

ALL Employees:

- Must familiarise them with, and conform to, the Health & Safety Policy, procedures and/or guidance;
- Must work with due regard to the health and safety of themselves and that of others who may be affected by their work/activities;
- Must co-operate with the council, including complying with all safety instructions given by their line management, to ensure that its obligations with regards to health and safety are complied with;
- Must notify their Line Manager/Supervisor immediately of any health and safety issues or concerns that they have, are not able to put right or are outside their control;
- Must report all accidents, incidents and near misses to their line manager
- Must not interfere with, or misuse, anything provided by the council in the interest of health and safety;
- Must ensure that all tools and equipment provided by the council are properly used in accordance with the manufacturer's, supplier's and/or installer's instructions and report any defects to their Line Manager/Supervisor immediately;
- Are required to complete any relevant health and safety training assigned to them by the council in the designated timescale;
- When working away from their normal office environment, must ensure they consider their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their work e.g. Agile working...
- When working in a different building, they also have a duty to make themselves aware of the local rules and procedures for that building, and adhere to these.

Corporate Health & Safety Advisor (Competent Persons) oversees the implementation of the Health & Safety Policy and procedures on behalf of the council, ensuring they comply with current legislation. In particular, the Health & Safety Advisor has a responsibility to:

- Provide advice, guidance and support to the council on all health, safety and welfare, including on:
 - New legislation and its impact on the council
 - Risk assessments, where appropriate;
 - Safe systems of work for operations undertaken by the council and review and report on safety recommendations issued;
 - The management of contractors.
- Develop and review the corporate Health & Safety Policy, procedures and guidance which provide detail on specific health and safety requirements;
- Manage and maintain the council's health and safety management framework;

- Audit and inspect as necessary the council's operations and advise appropriate Directors, Assistant Directors, Service Managers, Team Leaders or People Managers of any actions necessary to ensure compliance with the Policy and procedures, recording/monitoring high-risk actions;
- Maintain an overview of fire safety within the council, including within premises occupied by Council employees;
- Provide quarterly health and safety performance reports to the Corporate Management Team, Corporate H & S and Emergency Planning Operational Group and Health & Safety Forum, and an annual health and safety performance report to the Chief Executive a Corporate Management Team;
- Attend Health & Safety Forum meetings to highlight/report on health and safety matters;
- Advise on and, as necessary, facilitate the provision of training courses in accordance with the corporate training programme, including induction training and e-learning, and ensuring compliance;
- Investigate, as necessary, accidents, incidents and near misses and recommend corrective action;
- Disseminate new information on health and safety matters as appropriate;
- Take immediate direct action in cases of imminent danger, where that action cannot be taken by line Managers
- Record and review details of accidents, incidents or near misses at work and provide advice on ways in which recurrence could be minimised;
- Liaise, where required, with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and other enforcement authorities and external bodies on health and safety issues.

Human Resources Team are responsible for:

Ensuring that the employee information provided to the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor is accurate and up to date.

Contractors and Business Tenants must:

- Effectively and efficiently co-operate and communicate with the council on all relevant health and safety matters before and during their tenure with Breckland.
- Meet the health and safety standards required of them in the performance of the work activities undertaken with or on behalf of the council.

Safety Representatives, both Trade Union and employees, are able to exercise their rights to:

- Get involved in investigations for reportable accidents/incidents;
- Represent the views of the employees to Manager and to HSE Inspectors.
- Undertake inspections of the workplace and formally report back to Management and the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor.
- Be consulted on any changes to corporate and local documentation.

Partners, Service Users and Members of the Public are requested to co-operate with the health and safety arrangements put in place by Breckland to protect them and the people who are providing a service to them.

2. Corporate Management Team

Will oversee the Health and Safety Compliance for Breckland.

They will:

- receive, review and question the Quarterly reports provided by the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor;
- formally sign-off Health and Safety Policies and Procedures, reports and guidance;
- monitor the Council's H & S performance and hold managers to account for non-compliance in their respective areas;
- consider any safety audit and inspection reports of BDC's work places and/or activities and contribute to any improvement plan.

3. Corporate H & S and Emergency Planning Operational Group

This group ensures that health and safety is effectively managed by the organisation. This group sets the workplan for the year and monitors performance against the plan. The group will discuss and agree approaches to emerging issues and new risks. The group ensures that CMT are well informed and updated on key areas including progress with the work plan, key risk areas and accident statistics.

4. Health & Safety Forum

The Health & Safety Forum exists to ensure effective communication, monitoring of performance and consultation in matters involving the health, safety and welfare of all those affected by the work of the Council.

The Forum will meet:

- Once every three months;
- To review the Policy and procedures for health, safety and welfare, both statutory and otherwise and monitor their effectiveness;
- To act as a consultation mechanism for employees of the council;
- To review forthcoming legislation, assess its implications and where appropriate make recommended changes to existing policies/practices or contribute to the development of new ones;
- Consider and take action as appropriate on reports from Trade Union appointed Safety Representatives;
- To receive safety data relating to reportable (and non-reportable) accidents, incidents and near misses to consider the effectiveness of any remedial action taken to prevent future similar incidents;
- To consider reports and factual information provided by inspectors of the HSE under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, or any other relevant enforcement authority and to establish and maintain effective links with such persons;
- To consider relevant health, safety and welfare matters raised by members of the Forum that remain unresolved after management intervention; and
- To note the appointment and consider the activities of Trade Union Safety Representatives as required by the relevant legislation.

The membership of the Forum shall be as follows:

- Environmental Health and Licensing Manager (Chair)
- Corporate Health & Safety Advisor
- Representative(s) from recognised Trade Unions
- Representative(s) from each Service Area

5. Trade Unions

The council is committed to working with the recognised trade unions with regards to the appointment of safety representatives, co-operation on inspections and fulfilling 'safety committee' requirements of Regulation 9 of the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977.

6. Health & Safety in Partnership Working & Contracted Out Work

The responsibilities for health and safety in partnership working and contracted out work will be determined by the nature of the contract between the council and the partner/contractor.

Construction contracts will be governed by The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015), other contracts will be subject to the Council's procurement rules and the Contractor Management procedure which is available on the intranet.

Contracting out work or services does not exclude the Council from its health and safety responsibilities or risk from prosecution.

7. Policies, Procedures & Guidance

The Health & Safety Policy, Fire policy and procedures have been developed to control specific hazards encountered within the Council. These are available in the [Health & Safety section](#) on BDC's Intranet.

8. Health & Safety Training/Competence

The health and safety training requirements for all employees will be identified on recruitment, on a regular ongoing basis and at the individual's annual appraisal. Key corporate health and safety training is documented in the Council's Health & Safety Training Matrix on the intranet.

Advice on specialist courses is available from the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor and/or Breckland Training Team in Human Resources.

9. Monitoring

The monitoring of this Policy will be carried out by the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor, actively through health and safety auditing and inspections and reactively by the investigation of accident, incidents, near miss, violent incidents and ill health statistics produced and reported on a regular basis.

All monitoring activity will be reported to the H & S Forum and if necessary escalated to CMT.

Quarterly and an annual Health & Safety Performance Report will be provided to the council by the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor.

10. Review

This procedure will be subject to a review every two years by the Corporate Health & Safety Advisor or sooner should there be changes to health and safety legislation and guidance to/within the Council, or a change of circumstances that dictate a review.

Details of the review and any recommendation will be provided to the CMT and H & S Forum.

11. References

- HSE's Website – [Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#)
- HSE's Website – [Managing for Health & Safety](#)
- [Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations, 1999](#)

12. Document Control

Version & Approval Control

Issue Number	Author/Approver	Issue Date	Reason for Issue
1.0	Executive Management Team	04/01/2021	Final issue
1.1	Corporate Health & Safety Advisor	03/01/2023	Amendments due to separation from South Holland District Council and appointment of a new Chief Executive
1.2	Assistant Director Health & Housing / Environmental Health and Licensing Manager	02/02/2023	Comments received following first Draft

1.3	Assistant Director Health & Housing	14/02/2023	Further comments received
1.4	Health and Safety Forum	07/04/2023	No further comments received