

Inland Water Safety Policy for Approval by Committee

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Debbie Chance & Councillor Joe Baker
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services Head of Environmental Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

1.1 Members are asked to consider the following Inland Water Safety Policy:

This Water Safety Policy provides the framework for assessing and maintaining inland, open water in the Councils ownership and sets the acceptable standards via the risk assessment process endorsed by the

Various parts of legislation place statutory duties on owners of inland water sites, or the person responsible for the site, to provide for the safety and the well-being of visitors, which includes employees and members of the public. Statute and Common law have a relevance to the operation of inland waters.

1.2 The above Policy has been approved by the Council's Health and Safety Committee and the trade unions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Full Council the approval and adoption of the Inland Water Safety Policy.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 There is an ongoing financial commitment for the management, repair and maintenance of the assets associated with inland water bodies under the Councils stewardship.

3.2 The majority of inland water asset management is revenue expense which is within existing budgets. There may be occasions where capital funding is required e.g. where there is a significant change in legislation or a significant unforeseen hazard occurs to one of the Council assets. On any such occasion the adopted capital bid process will be observed

Legal Implications

3.3 The following primary legislation has been considered in the drafting of this policy:

- Health and safety at Work Act (H&SAW) 1974
- The Management of Health and safety at Work Regulations 1999 (previously 1992).
- Health & Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981
- Public Health Act 1936
- Occupiers Liability Act 1999
- The Health & Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996

Service / Operational Implications

3.4 This policy is applicable to all staff who work on or near any inland water bodies throughout the council. Appropriate training in respect of these policies will be provided.

3.5 The Water Safety Policy will be available to all employees on the Orb or in hard copy format where appropriate. All employees working on or near inland water bodies are required to undertake Health & Safety induction, and health & safety policies form part of this induction process.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.6 A robust Health & Safety approach ensures that the services we provide to our customers are carried out safely, with the needs of all individuals taken into account.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 Whilst the Council has a Health and Safety Policy in place it is recommended that specific policies are written to cover specific risks within the business.

4.2 The Council could be subject to prosecution and or investigation by the Health and Safety Executive if the council is found not to have appropriate policies in place. This will have an impact on the reputation of the Council and could also lead to a prosecution.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Inland Water Safety Policy

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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