

Annual Health and Safety Performance Report 2022 - 2023

Report of the Corporate Health and Safety Manager

Recommended:

That the Annual Health and Safety Report 2022-2023 be approved.

SUMMARY:

Test Valley Borough Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy requires an annual report on health and safety performance and planning.

This report covers the year 2022/23 and demonstrates the Council's compliance with its statutory responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated regulations.

The objectives of this report are to demonstrate Test Valley Borough Council's commitment to:

- Making public the Council's performance on health and safety, by publishing health and safety performance data;
- The ongoing effective implementation of the Council's health and safety policy, organisation and its associated arrangements;
- Monitor and measure health and safety performance, with a view to highlighting areas where the Council performs well and also areas for improvement;
- Openness and accountability in all the council services; and
- Our responsibility for ensuring a safe and healthy environment for service users, members of the public, employees, and contractors.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and supplementary regulations.
- 1.2 In the guidance '*Leading Health and Safety at Work*', the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) state that a formal review of health and safety performance is an essential principle and that the production and subsequent publication of an annual report shows a commitment to transparency and accountability.

2 Background

- 2.1 As in previous years, an annual report has been prepared and circulated to senior management for comment. The report is then passed to elected members for approval before being made public.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 In presenting the health and safety performance report to the General Purposes Committee, the Council is fulfilling its corporate objective under the Councils Health and Safety Policy Statement, and also adhering to HSE best practice guidance. The report ensures that the Council is fulfilling its obligations to staff and stakeholders and strengthens its commitment to health and safety.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The nature of this report does not require formal consultation to take place, however, it will be communicated to stakeholders and afford them the opportunity to give any comment.

5 Options

- 5.1 The examination of potential options is not applicable in this circumstance. The primary purpose of the report is to present information. The HSE will expect a leading organisation such as Test Valley Borough Council to comply with its management guidance and would therefore publicise its performance.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 As above, there is no scope for potential options. The report is for information purposes only.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no additional resource implications.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 Failure to produce and publish an annual report would not necessarily expose the Council to action being taken by the HSE, or others, but it would be viewed negatively should the HSE be looking into any other aspect of the council business and operation.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 This report is for information only. Therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not applicable.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety – None.
11.2 Environmental Health Issues – None.

11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – None.

11.4 Property Issues – None.

11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – None.

12 Conclusion

12.1 The approval of the Annual Health and Safety Report 2022-2023 will fulfil the council's obligation to health and safety legislation and will reinforce its commitment to following HSE best practice guidance.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality:</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Leader) Councillor P North			
Officer:	Spencer Scott	Ext:	8377
Report to:	General Purposes	Date:	16 October 2023