

STATEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Shropshire Council recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer for providing a safe and healthy workplace and working environment for all its employees and others who may be affected by its work activities and undertakings.

The Council will, so far as is reasonably practicable, meet this responsibility paying particular attention to the provision and maintenance of:

- i) plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe;
- ii) safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances;
- iii) sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own safety and health at work;
- iv) a safe place of work with safe access to and egress from it;
- v) a healthy working environment;
- vi) adequate welfare facilities.

The Council will support all its employees in promoting the culture necessary and comply with the duties set out in The Equality Act 2010 to achieve on-going improvement of health and safety performance without detracting from the primary responsibility of managers for ensuring safe conditions of work; will ensure the provision of adequate competent advice on safety and welfare matters where this is necessary to assist management in its task.

Overall responsibility for carrying out this policy rests with the Chief Executive. Within Service Areas responsibility for implementation will be undertaken by the appropriate Director and/or Head of Service, who in turn will delegate responsibilities for local management of Health and Safety to managers.

The Occupational Health, Safety & Wellbeing Manager is appointed to co-ordinate this policy, and provide a Health, Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Service. Duties will require visits to any working area and it will be necessary for all Service Areas to work closely with Safety Officers.

The Occupational Health Service provides professional occupational health services and occupational policy advice to the Council and its employees. The Service works closely with the Occupational Health, Safety & Wellbeing Manager in order to promote high standards of health, safety and wellbeing and has direct access to management at all levels.

No safety policy can be successful without the full involvement and co-operation of all employees in ensuring the safety of themselves, their colleagues and others who may be affected by their work activities. The Council will therefore co-operate fully in the appointment of safety representatives with sufficient facilities to carry out their duties. The Council will maintain a Corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Group and ensure that health and safety is discussed at Group Managers', Service Managers' and Team meetings, so that health and safety information is circulated throughout the organisation.

The Council reminds its employees of their own duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act. All employees have a duty to take reasonable care for their own safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do or fail to do. Further, they must co-operate with the Council so far as is necessary to enable the Council to carry out its duties under the Act.

Signed:



Andy Begley
Chief Executive
October 2022