



**Somerset**  
Council

# **Health and Safety Policy Statement of Intent**

## Health and Safety Policy Statement of Intent

Somerset Council values the health and safety of its employees, volunteers, members of the community and any persons that may visit, transact business, or use the facilities it manages and controls. As such, so far as is reasonably practicable, the Council will strive to attain the highest possible standard of health and safety (H&S) management in all its operations. The Council is committed to undertaking our business operations in a way that prevents injury or illness to employees, visitors, contractors, and the public who may be impacted by our operations and activities.

This H&S Policy Statement of Intent supports the principles of the *Local Government Act 2000* and the *Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974* and all Statutory Instruments to which the Council are governed. It demonstrates the commitment of the Council in the provision of a workplace where employees feel safe, supported, and free to raise concerns and feel included regardless of race, religion, gender, political beliefs, or abilities. The policy also endorses the Council's commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour. The Council will achieve this by:

- Providing and maintaining a safe working environment where plant, equipment and substances are safe to use and ensuring adequate first aid and welfare facilities are in place.
- Adopting a systematic approach to managing risks, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the risk, if this cannot be achieved, minimise the risk so far as is reasonably practicable by undertaking risk assessments and implementing control measures in accordance with the hierarchy of control.
- Ensuring employees are provided with clear and sufficient information, instruction, training, supervision to support and develop competency.
- Providing effective consultation mechanisms to give employees and others the opportunity to express their views and opinions, so that these can be considered when decisions about H&S are being made.
- Ensure safe systems of work are developed and implemented to allow employees to work safely and free from harm.
- Providing sufficient resources to deliver the effective implementation of this policy and support continual improvement in safety performance.
- Undertake regular workplace inspections and audits, to ensure H&S best practice has been achieved and unsafe tasks, practices, premises or working conditions are identified.
- Carrying out investigations when an incident or accident occurs to identify root causes and establish corrective measures to prevent reoccurrence.
- Providing an effective response to accidents, incidents and near miss events and to report accordingly under RIDDOR.
- Ensure suitable and sufficient emergency procedures are implemented to enable safe evacuation in the event of a fire or significant incident.
- Ensuring that information and adequate welfare support provision is provided relating to Mental Health and Stress.

The full suite of the Council's H&S policies and supporting guidance documents detail arrangements to achieve the aims of this statement. This H&S Policy Statement of Intent will be reviewed annually and more frequently if changes in legislation relevant to Councils operations, or organisational changes indicate a need to do so.

**A SIGNED COPY OF THIS POLICY IS AVAILABLE FROM THE**  
**CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY UNIT**

Duncan Sharkey

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 31/03/2023

Bill Revans

Leader of the Council

Date: 30/03/2023

Review Date: 01/04/2024