



Ribble Valley
Borough Council

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

GENERAL STATEMENT OF INTENT

1. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

- 1.1.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council is fully committed to meeting its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and associated protective legislation.

To achieve those objectives it has appointed a designated member of staff to be responsible for Council Health, Safety and Welfare; to keep workplace health, safety and welfare procedures under constant review; to liaise with the Health and Safety Executive wherever necessary; and to keep the Council and its Directors abreast of new legislation, EU Directives, Regulations and Standards, in order to ensure ongoing compliance with the law.

- 1.2 Ribble Valley Borough Council accepts the responsibility to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all employees, and recognises that the effective management of Health and Safety has a role to play in enhancing the reputation of the Council, helping achieve high performance and financial benefit. The main responsibility for Health and Safety lies with the Chief Executive and Directors.
- 1.3 The Council will take all reasonable steps to meet this responsibility, paying particular attention to the provision and maintenance of:
- (a) Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe.
 - (b) Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
 - (c) Adequate information, instruction, training and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own Health and Safety at work.
 - (d) A safe place of work and safe access to and egress from it.
 - (e) A healthy working environment.
 - (f) Adequate welfare within the scope of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
 - (g) Suitable and sufficient risk assessments which will be made available to employees.
 - (h) Health surveillance to employees where necessary.

The Council will review such arrangements as often as may be appropriate and, in any case, where significant changes have taken place.

- 1.4 In addition, the Council recognises the duty to conduct its undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in Council employment, who may be affected thereby, are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety. In order to meet this obligation the Council will pay strict attention to its duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984.

- 1.5 As a Local Authority the Council fully accepts its responsibilities to strive to achieve excellence in the carrying out of all operations, including Health and Safety.
- 1.5.1 To underpin this objective the Council subscribes to the following vision:
- 1.5.2 To promote and develop a culture and system of management which ensures that the Health, Safety and Welfare of all of the Council's stakeholders is integral to the planning and operations it undertakes.
- 1.6 To underpin this vision the Council has the following strategic goals:
- 1.6.1 To prevent accidents and cases of ill health and provide adequate control of Health and Safety risks arising from work activities.
- 1.6.2 To ensure that issues affecting the Health, Safety and Welfare of all the Council's stakeholders are fully appreciated and integrated into the management philosophy of the Council.
- 1.6.3 To engage and consult with employees, safety representatives and other appropriate stakeholders in attaining these goals, thus ensuring full commitment to the vision.
- 1.6.4 To improve management systems to reduce injuries and ill health.
- 1.6.5 To implement emergency procedures including evacuation in the event of fire or other significant incident.
- 1.7 The Council recognises that successful implementation of this policy requires total commitment from Members, Management and all staff in each service area and at every location and facility. Everyone has a legal obligation to be personally responsible for their own Health and Safety, as well as for the Health and Safety of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions. The Council's Policy will accord with the principles of the Health and Safety Executives' guidance: Successful Health and Safety Management (HSG65).
- 1.8 The Policy statement will be made available to all employees and a reference copy retained at all locations. It will be amended and supplemented as necessary and employees will be informed of all subsequent amendments or additions.

Signed.....*Marshae Scott*.....

Marshae Scott – Chief Executive

Dated.....*28/3/22*.....

Signed.....*Linda Boyer*.....

Linda Boyer – UNISON Branch Secretary

Dated.....*20/05/22*.....