

Health & Safety Policy

Version Details:

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Author:	Lead Specialist - Strategic Planning
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Sub heading:

First Draft:	August 2021
Second Draft:	September 2021
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South Somerset District Council is committed to ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all its employees, Members and other persons who may be affected by the Council's activities.

This statement demonstrates the commitment of the Senior Leadership Team to achieve high standards of health and safety and fulfil the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The Council intend to demonstrate continuing improvement in the management of health and safety.

The Council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees.

The Council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the health and safety of other parties is protected where they are affected by Council work activities e.g. the public, service users, residents, contractors and visitors.

The Council intends to apply best practice to the management of health and safety, and, as far as possible, the Council plans to be excellent in our health and safety performance in comparison with the sector. The Council will benchmark its performance in the sector with regular audits.

The Council wants its employees to benefit from their employment with us, and this means that we intend that their safety shall be ensured, and their health shall suffer no detriment, as a result of their work.

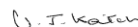
The Council will train, inform and supervise its employees to ensure that they are empowered to take responsibility for the safety of themselves and others. We will also consult our employees and work closely with them in the development of our policies and systems.

It is of keen concern to all of us that our operations in no way put the public and our service users at risk. Our policy statement on public safety explains this aim in more detail.

The Council will assess all the risks of its operations and seek to eliminate or reduce these risks where practicable. We will put systems in place for the management of remaining significant risks and apply these suitably with documentation and training. We will monitor to ensure our systems are suitable and properly followed, and review on an annual programme.

The Council will review its corporate health and safety management system, including the way in which its activities are managed and organised by senior management. The Council acknowledges the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 which clarifies the criminal liabilities of companies where serious failures in the management of health and safety result in a fatality.

The remainder of this policy explains the systems we will apply to achieve the aims of this statement. The policy will be reviewed annually and whenever there is a change in signatories.



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Chief Executive Officer

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Leader of the Council

Date: 7 January 2022

