



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 19TH NOVEMBER 2012

**SUBJECT: FIRE SAFETY POLICY AND CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
ARRANGEMENTS**

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the views of Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives on the recent new draft corporate Fire Safety policy and management arrangements on Fire Safety and Arson Prevention, as part of the formal consultation process, and prior to consideration by Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Fire Safety Policy was approved as issue 1 in July 2005 and issue 2 in June 2007.
- 2.2 Due to changes in arrangements and practice the policy has now been re-written and requires approval as a new policy and management arrangements.
- 2.3 The aims and objectives of the new documents is to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to managing Fire Safety risk across the Authority and to provide managers with a range of resources, information and paperwork so they can meet their responsibilities with regard to Fire Safety.
- 2.4 The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 place a specific duty on employers to assess and control risks associated with fire.
- 2.5 If a fire were to break-out the consequence in terms of potential for loss of life is significant and there have been a number of fire related deaths in workplaces particularly residential care homes over recent years.
- 2.6 Failure to manage the risks associated with fire could compromise the health and safety of employees, members of the public, service users, visitors and contractors.
- 2.7 The approach adopted by the Fire Safety Policy and Corporate Management Arrangements is to manage the risk through: fire risk assessment, effective and documented local fire safety arrangements (to include fire evacuation arrangements), provision of means for fire detection and warning, means of escape, means for fighting fire and staff training.
- 2.8 The policy also introduces arrangements for: storage of flammables, smoking, work processes involving heat, housekeeping and rubbish disposal, management of contractors and potential for arson ensuring a comprehensive risk management approach.

- 2.9 South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are adopting an increasingly stringent approach to managing fire safety and issuing enforcement notices in the event of a premise failing to have in place suitable and sufficient fire safety arrangements. In the event of an incident there would also be the possibility of both criminal and civil liability.
- 2.10 The policy and corporate management arrangements have been subject to consultation including direct consultation with the Trade Unions. All relevant comments have been incorporated.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The views of the Committee are sought as part of the consultation process.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To ensure that the Corporate Health and Safety Committee's comments are reflected in a subsequent report to Cabinet that will seek approval of the revised Fire Safety Policy, Fire Safety Corporate Management Arrangements and Arson Prevention Corporate Management Arrangements

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Revised Fire Safety Policy
Appendix 2 Fire Safety Corporate Management Arrangements
Appendix 3 Arson Prevention Corporate Management Arrangements