



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 17TH FEBRUARY 2020

SUBJECT: LEGIONELLA MANAGEMENT POLICY

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek committee member approval for the draft policy on Legionella Management prior to the report being referred to Cabinet for consideration.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Authority has in place a number of policies setting out the Authority's approach to managing key health and safety risks. An electrical safety policy was introduced in December 2017 following HSE recommendations regarding the need for a policy setting out the Authority's commitment to and arrangement for managing electrical safety. Due to the similar high risk associated with legionella it was felt that a similar approach should be adopted and competent specialist advice was sought to assist with the development of a policy.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the contents of this report are noted and the draft policy (Appendix 1) approved and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Authority meets its statutory responsibilities under Health and Safety law.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Ensuring that there are robust arrangements to manage water systems where there is a means of creating and transmitting breathable water droplets (aerosols), thus causing a reasonably foreseeable risk of exposure to legionella bacteria is fundamental to the safe and efficient operation of CCBC premises.
- 5.2 Legionella bacteria legionella pneumophila and related bacteria are found in natural water sources and may also be found on water systems such as cooling towers evaporative condensers, hot and cold water systems and spa pools. If conditions are favourable, the bacteria may grow. The risk increases with age however some people are at higher risk including people over 45 years of age, smokers and heavy drinkers, people suffering with chronic, respiratory or kidney disease, people with diabetes, lung or heart disease, and anyone with an impaired immune system.
- 5.2 The draft policy details the role and responsibilities at all levels for managing the risks associated with legionella, including ensuring there is a risk assessment and written scheme in place and that appropriate checks are in place.
- 4.3 The draft policy details the practical measures which will be undertaken to control the risks including:

- Identifying the risk from legionella.
- Written scheme to control the risk
- Avoiding conditions suitable for growth of the organisms
- Use of thermostatic mixing valves (TMVs)
- Nutrients
- Transmission of the bacteria
- Susceptibility
- Record keeping
- Asbestos issues affecting legionella checks/works

4.4 Compliance with the policy will enable the Authority to meet its obligations under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.

5.2 **Conclusion**

The updated policies will help to ensure that CCBC is meeting its legal responsibilities under health and safety legislation and will assist in ensuring there is a robust health and safety framework in place to keep employees and others safe.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions have been made regarding the information contained in this report.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 This report links to the Corporate Health and Safety Policy and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Policy (COSHH) and other CCBC Health and Safety Policies.

7.2 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

The report content contributes towards or impacts the Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all. Through affording Health and Safety training opportunities both for our employees and for others across the borough which will support with developing skills and improving employability in a safe environment where the risks are effectively managed.

Objective 2 - Enabling employment. Through ensuring that CCBC employees and others affected by our work activities are kept safe and healthy whilst at work and able to remain in employment.

Objective 5 - Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Through ensuring that the health risks associated with work are assessed, controlled and managed in accordance with the relevant health and safety policy and that health and safety training provided ensures that Managers and employees are aware of the Health and Safety policies and practises that support good health and well-being.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being. Through ensuring that our health and safety policies and practises promote good health and well-being.

8. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales

It is also consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that we will seek to consider the long-term impact of Health and Safety policies, practices and training, we will seek to prevent any ongoing issues and ensure that Health and Safety training and subsequent practise is integrated into good management. We will also ensure there is effective collaboration and involvement as required in order to meet our legal Health and Safety objectives in line with the act. This will assist in safeguarding the health and safety of our employees, residents, service users and visitors and ensure that the Council as a public body and social landlord meets its regulatory duties and corporate objectives.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equalities implications

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 All comments from consultees have been included in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Policy (COSHH)

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Appendix 1: Legionella Control Policy