



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

C230

Cabinet 23 November 2011

Recommendations from Central Safety Working Party: 10 October 2011 (Dec11/04)

Cabinet Member: Cllr David Ray

*Chairman of the Working Party:
Cllr Jim Thorndyke*

1. Joint Health and Safety Policy (Paper C165)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, subject to full Council approval, St Edmundsbury Borough Council's (SEBC) existing Health and Safety Policy be amended to enable its development into a joint Health and Safety Policy relevant and applicable to both SEBC and Forest Heath District Council, as detailed in Paper C165.

As part of progressing the Shared Service agenda, the Borough Council's Health and Safety Manager has the responsibility for health and safety at both St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and Forest Heath District Council (FHDC). It is, therefore, considered appropriate that a joint Health and Safety Policy be adopted by both authorities and it is proposed that SEBC's existing Health and Safety Policy be developed into the joint Policy. This process requires minor amendments to be made to the existing Policy to make it relevant and applicable to both authorities.

The Health and Safety Policy has been approved by full Council and, therefore, amendments to the Policy need to be approved by the Council. However, the amendments recommended above and those taken to Council on 27 September 2011 are minor in nature. The Cabinet is requested to additionally recommend to full Council that minor changes to the Policy can be approved by the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for health and safety and the Chairman of the Central Safety Working Party.

Cabinet **RECOMMENDS** to full Council that:-

The Health and Safety Manager be authorised to make minor typographical, factual or grammatical changes to the Health and Safety Policy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for health and safety and the Chairman of the current Central Safety Working Party and any subsequent body.

2. Joint Central Safety Working Party (Agenda Item 8)

RECOMMENDED:-

That, investigations be undertaken to progress the amalgamation of the Borough Council's Central Safety Working Party with the equivalent body at Forest Heath District Council and for terms of reference for the single group to be presented to the next meeting of the Working Party on 20 February 2012.

On 25 May 2011 the Cabinet considered its Annual Review and Appointment of Working Parties (Report C6 refers). Arising from the consideration of this report the Cabinet resolved that (minute 5(4) refers):-

'Merging of Emergency Planning, Central Safety and Joint Staff Consultative Working Parties with the equivalent at Forest Heath District Council be explored'.

As a consequence of the above resolution, the Working Party considered the proposed merger with the equivalent body at Forest Heath District Council was appropriate, particularly as the Health and Safety Manager already had responsibility for health and safety at both authorities and the Emergency Planning bodies of both Councils have now been merged to form the West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Panel.