

### **C.5 Health and Safety Sub-Committee**

#### **1. Overview**

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee's membership will be drawn from Councillors and staff of the West Suffolk Council.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee will consider the Council's health and safety arrangements and provide guidance to support the development of executive action by Officers of the Council, including policy guidance.
- 1.3 To provide a group of Members who can develop an enhanced level of understanding of health and safety matters.
- 1.4 To make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or Officers of the Council about policies and actions required to develop and maintain effective health and safety arrangements.
- 1.5 To advise the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on the progress of their work and matters they have considered.

#### **2. Constitution**

- 2.1 The Health and Safety Sub-Committee shall comprise 12 Members. Six Councillors drawn from the membership of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, which desirably reflects the political balance of the Council, as far as practically possible (to be the 'Employers' Side'). Six members of staff (to be the 'Employees' Side'), drawn from the Officer Health and Safety Group.
- 2.2 Two Substitute Members from the Employers' side and two Substitutes from the Employees' Side.
- 2.3 It shall be the Health and Safety Manager's duty to attend and advise the Sub-Committee.
- 2.4 The Sub-Committee shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair from its Members. When the Chair is a Member of one side of the Sub-Committee, the Vice-Chair shall be a Member of the other side.
- 2.5 The Sub-Committee may invite attendance of any person whose particular knowledge or experience may assist the Sub-Committee in its considerations. Such attendance shall be in a consultative capacity and only for the period during which the relevant subject is under consideration.

### **3. Terms of Reference**

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee shall keep under review all matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the Councils' employees, and to the protection of other persons against risks arising out of the work activities of the employees and of persons working under contract.
- 3.2 To review and monitor Health and Safety Policy and recommend amendments to the Officers and/or Cabinet in accordance with their respective delegations. Specifically, the Sub-Committee will work directly with the Health and Safety Manager to review and implement revisions to the operational procedures Policy under their delegated authority to make such changes.
- 3.3 Without prejudice to the foregoing terms, items for particular consideration may include:-
  - (a) The study of accidents and diseases, and in particular those notifiable to the Health and Safety Executive.
  - (b) Considering and making recommendations in respect of items submitted by the staff Health and Safety Group.
  - (c) Consideration of reports and information from the Inspectors of the Health and Safety Executive.
  - (d) Consideration of reports submitted by Safety Representatives.
  - (e) The development of safety procedures and safe systems of work.
  - (f) Recommending and monitoring the effectiveness of employee safety training.
  - (g) The presentation of publicity on safety matters; and
  - (h) Inspecting or arranging for an inspection of any particular area or activity.

### **4. Arrangements and Procedures**

- 4.1 Meetings shall normally be held three times a year but, exceptionally, the Chair may decide, after consultation with the Health and Safety Manager, to convene an Extraordinary meeting at any time or to cancel a scheduled meeting due to lack of business to transact.
- 4.2 The quorum for the Sub-Committee shall be four, comprising at least two employee representatives and two Members of the Council.
- 4.3 Voting shall be by a show of hands and simple majority.
- 4.4 The report from the Sub-Committee to the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and/or the Cabinet shall be by way of presentation of the minutes or by way of a brief report in an agreed format.

*(\*Note: This meeting is not governed by the normal Access to Information rules (The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012) in the Council. Therefore these meetings are not open to attendance by the public).*