

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting20th January 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Legionella Control and Water Hygiene Policy and Asbestos Management Policy

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the procedures which had been in place for sometime to reduce the risk associated with Legionella and Asbestos in Council buildings.

Policy documents had been produced that took into consideration the latest guidelines on reducing the risk associated with Legionella and Asbestos. The policy documents also clearly defined levels of responsibility.

Members noted that Legionnaire's disease was a potentially fatal form of pneumonia. The bacteria reproduce to high numbers in warm, stagnant water (between 20°C and 46°C). Typically plumbing systems and hot water tanks, pools, showers, fire and sprinkler systems installed in Council buildings that used water and operated at temperatures in excess of 20°C could generate an aerosol presenting a Legionella risk. High temperatures of 60°C and over would kill the bacteria.

The main aim of the Legionnaire's policy was to reduce the risk associated with Legionella by correct; system design and operation, methods of control monitoring, and water treatment. The recommended cleaning and disinfection procedures must be considered if the risk was to be minimised.

Members noted that Asbestos was a mineral that is resistant to heat, fire and corrosive chemicals. There were three main types:

- Crocidolite (blue)
- Amosite (brown)
- Chrysolite (white)

Members also noted that Asbestos was composed of small fibres, which can only be detected by using a microscope under laboratory conditions.

The main aim of the Asbestos policy was to ensure that any asbestos located within Council buildings was managed in accordance with relevant legislation. There would also be a requirement on contactors to demonstrate that all staff had sufficient knowledge to recognise asbestos if they encounter it.

RESOLVED that:

1. the policy for Legionella Control & Water Hygiene be approved
2. the policy for Asbestos Management be approved
3. the responsible officers within the policies be noted and delegate authority be given to the Head of Finance & Assets and the Head of Technical Services to manage, monitor and implement the policy as necessary.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Legionella Control and Water Hygiene Policy and Asbestos Management Policy would ensure that the Council had approved formal procedures to reduce the risk associated with Legionella and Asbestos, inclusive of:

- Documented levels of responsibility.
- Risk Assessment, management procedures, monitoring and training requirements all fully defined.
- A Written Scheme/Asbestos Management Plan, for all Council premises.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on 28 January 2011

Proper Officer
25 January 2011