

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES
18 SEPTEMBER 2013

EXECUTIVE
1 OCTOBER 2013

REVISION OF ASBESTOS POLICY

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of a revision of the Asbestos Policy.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Asbestos Policy was first approved in 2008 and it is now timely to review the policy to ensure it meets current regulations and aligns with organisational structures. The review incorporates a legislation up-date (The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR12)) and recognises organisational changes.

3. SCOPE OF POLICY

- 3.1 Whilst seeking to address the very different approaches adopted within domestic and non-domestic properties it is predominantly intended to confirm the approach to managing asbestos in non-domestic properties. However, it has a common overarching policy statement and set of aims and includes the Housing Policy as an appendix. The revised asbestos policy is available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website linked to this agenda or available on request
- 3.2 The Current position (in accordance with regulation 4 of CAR12) is that a programme of proactive asbestos management is being rolled out to cover all non-domestic areas of responsibility including Operational, Commercial and Communal areas of domestic premises.
- 3.3 The register of asbestos and asbestos management surveys in Council non-domestic buildings continues to be maintained along with a rolling programme of re-surveys. The programme of surveying all council houses for asbestos continues to move forward.
- 3.4 It is recognised that asbestos management surveys cannot guarantee a totally accurate picture of the asbestos content within a property; therefore whenever refurbishment or demolition work is planned on any type of building a further (more comprehensive) survey is undertaken. This type of survey uses sampling and laboratory testing techniques to confirm the presence of asbestos.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Specific officer responsibilities are detailed in the policy together with clarification over management roles and responsibilities, in order that asbestos is actively managed in accordance with regulations and HSE guidance. Practical help, advice and support to other Council officers, Contractors and the Public is available on an ongoing basis from the Safety & Asbestos Officer.

4.2 Surveys of non-domestic properties have now been substantially completed to a consistent level and have been used to populate the asbestos register which is available electronically to all facilities managers.

5 POLICY FRAMEWORK

5.1 The Asbestos Policy sets the framework within which the Council will operate in order to demonstrate proactive asbestos management; the policy is a typical objective for most organisations with a large property portfolio. Clearly once adopted the asbestos policy will need to be reviewed on an ongoing basis and also to reflect changes in legislation, best practice and the asset base.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The management of the Asbestos Policy can be conducted within existing resources although there is an additional resource need to ensure that staff with specific responsibilities have the necessary skills to carry out those responsibilities. This will require training needs to be identified and met.
- 6.2 A budget is identified within AIM to fund survey work and subsequent remedial work where it is considered necessary. It is also used to provide a 'contingency' to cover emergency asbestos work.
- 6.3 Where programmed works are being undertaken then allowance for any further asbestos surveys must be made within the funding arrangements for the programme. Advice on how best to organise and procure asbestos surveys and any resulting remedial asbestos related issue is provided by Environment.

7 RECOMMENDED

7.1 That Scrutiny Committee - Resources support and Executive approves the Asbestos Policy and management arrangements contained within it.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None