

The London Borough of Camden Corporate Health and Safety Policy Statement

1. The London Borough of Camden (the Council) recognises and accepts its responsibility as an employer for providing a safe and healthy work environment for all employees and for ensuring the health & safety of others who may be affected by the Council's undertakings including members of the public, visitors, tenants, contractors, etc.
2. As the Chief Executive I hold ultimate responsibility for health & safety throughout the Council. Through a planned health & safety approach and the provision of adequate resources I, supported by other members of the Camden Management Team (CMT) will ensure that Council-wide and, as appropriate, Departmental-specific health & safety objectives are set and will closely monitor the achievement of these objectives.
3. Directors and Assistant Directors are responsible for planning, developing and implementing Departmental health and safety policies that reflect the objectives set out in this corporate health and safety policy. The corporate health and safety policy will be reviewed annually. Chief officers will be told about all changes and should amend their departmental health and safety policies accordingly.
4. As the achievement of health and safety objectives cannot be met without the support of employees, their support and co-operation are requested.
5. The Council recognises that health & safety can contribute to business performance by reducing accidents, injuries and ill health, and that that accidents are often due to weaknesses in the health & safety management system and not necessarily the fault of the individuals involved. Hence overall responsibility for health & safety lies with senior management who will ensure that health & safety objectives will be considered with other business objectives in the development of Corporate plans/policies and will take precedence when necessary.
6. The Council considers legislation to be the minimum level of achievement and will ensure that whenever possible these standards will be exceeded.
7. The Council will ensure that all risks are minimised or adequately controlled including the provision and/or maintenance of the following:
 - Plant, equipment and systems of work, which are safe, and without risks to health;
 - Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances;
 - Sufficient information, training and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and to contribute positively to the health & safety of themselves and others whilst at work;
 - A safe and healthy place to work with safe access/exits;
 - Appropriate and adequate welfare facilities.

8. To ensure the above, the Council will carry out risk assessments to identify workplace hazards, assess the risks and establish the suitable preventive and protective measures to ensure that all risks are adequately controlled.
9. The CMT will ensure that health & safety performance is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that the Council's objectives are met and progressive improvements will be made as deemed necessary to the objectives and to performance standards / indicators.
10. The Council regards the achievement of a safe and healthy workplace as an important objective for all employees. The Council will co-operate fully in the appointment of safety representatives and will, following consultation with them, provide appropriate facilities and training to carry out this role. The Council will also co-operate in the setting up of health and safety committees as deemed appropriate.
11. The Council will ensure that it has systems in place that will ensure the positive communication of relevant health and safety information, including updates, to all employees and other persons as appropriate. It will also ensure that these systems ensure the upward communication of information to the CMT. These systems will make positive use of appointed employee representatives, health and safety committees, etc.
12. The Council recognises the need to plan, develop and ensure the effective implementation of its health and safety policies. To do so the CMT will ensure that suitable and adequate resources are available and that the policy is supported by the provision of an appropriate level of expert advice.
13. The Council will ensure that it has systems in place to ensure that competency requirements are recognised, and that employees are competent to undertake their responsibilities under its policies.
14. The health & safety performance of the Council will be assessed in an Annual Report produced by the Camden Management Team. The conclusions of Departmental health and safety performance reviews will also be included in this Report.



Signed:
(Moira Gibb, Chief Executive)

Date: 17 January 2007