

| Report of   | Meeting           | Date                       |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Director (Customer and Digital)<br>(Introduced by Executive Member<br>(Customer, Streetscene and<br>Environment)) | Executive Cabinet | Thursday, 21 March<br>2024 |

## Water Safety Policy update

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Is this report confidential? | No |
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|                       |    |
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| Is this decision key? | No |
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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000 | Significant impact on 2 or more council wards |
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### Purpose of the Report

1. To present the council's updated Water Safety Policy.

### Recommendations to Executive Cabinet

2. It is recommended that Executive Cabinet approve the updated Water Safety Policy.

### Reasons for recommendations

3. The revised policy is relevant, fit for purpose and meets legal and health and safety requirements as well as demonstrating our duty of care.
4. The policy better supports the effective management of these council assets and provides a greater degree of operational support.
5. The site assessment process has been reviewed and the risk scoring system amended to improve the risk assessments.

### Other options considered and rejected

6. To not update the policy would potentially put the council at risk of breaching and/or failing to demonstrate our duty of care in relation to water bodies on council land.

### Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Housing where residents can live well                                       | A green and sustainable borough              |
| An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas | <b>Healthy, safe and engaged communities</b> |

## Background to the report

8. A Water Safety Policy was originally adopted in 2017 following an external assessment of water bodies on council land. This policy is available here: [CBC WATER SAFETY POLICY 2018.pdf \(chorley.gov.uk\)](#)
9. There has been an internal audit recommendation to update the Water Safety Policy. The proposed new policy is attached at Appendix 1.
10. The revised policy and accompanying training will contribute to the council's commitment to invest in resourcing and infrastructure to support the effective management of assets.

## Purpose of the policy

11. The policy sets out the council's approach to site-specific risk assessments and management of the water bodies for which it is responsible.
12. Based on risk management best practice, it formalises the process of water inspections and maintenance to demonstrate our duty of care and satisfy legal requirements with regards to public safety.

## Notable changes

13. Relevant legislation is more detailed to provide greater context to the council's responsibilities. (para 4 of the policy)
14. There has been an expansion of roles and responsibilities to provide clarification and include important groups such as volunteers. (para 5)
15. The risk assessment process has been included in HARRIET, the council's corporate risk assessment portal, to provide consistency and transparency and better facilitate mobile working.(para 6.3)
16. The site assessment process has been reviewed and the scoring system amended. Site assessment ratings are now scored from 1 to 5 instead of 0 to 5. This has increased the scoring bands and overall risk rating which determines the site inspection frequency (para 7.1)
17. References to specific safety campaigns have been removed although the council will continue to support and promote current campaigns. (Para 6.2.9)
18. Frequency of review of scheduled risk assessments has been changed from 5 years to annually. (para 6.4)
19. The list of water bodies for which the council is responsible has been updated. A recent review has identified a further 18 sites where water bodies correspond to council-owned land. These sites will require an initial assessment and then will be assigned an inspection schedule. A full list of sites is at Appendix 2.

20. Water bodies on council-owned leased land remain the responsibility of the leaseholder in accordance with leaseholder agreements.

### **Considerations**

21. A review of all site-specific assessments is currently underway and it is anticipated this will be completed in full by the end of Quarter 2, 2024.
22. The inspection frequency of the newly identified sites will be finalised following conclusion of the above.

### **Climate change and air quality**

23. The work noted in this report has no impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.

### **Equality and diversity**

24. There are no equality implications or considerations that have potential impacts on individuals based on the proceed characteristics such as age, sex, disability etc.
25. An Impact Assessment has been completed.

### **Risk**

26. The process for water safety inspections and maintenance is underpinned by a risk assessment and risk management process. All water body sites on council land have been identified and are subject to an initial assessment of hazards and risks. This generates a site risk rating and determines the frequency safety inspections.
27. Regular site inspections are carried out by trained officers to identify any defects or issues that compromise water safety. Inspections and defects are recorded on the Alloy system and any identified defects are rectified in accordance with the policy.

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

28. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

29. The need for an up to date policy here is obvious – it helps to demonstrate that we are acting in accordance with our duties of care and relevant legislation.

Background documents

Appendix 1 – Revised Water Safety Policy

Appendix 2 - List of water bodies

| Report Author:                                 | Email:   | Telephone:         | Date:       |
|--|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Doug Cridland, (Waste Services Manager), Chris | doug.cridland@chorley.gov.uk,<br>chris.walmsley@chorley.gov.uk | Tel: 01257 515661, | 29 Feb 2024 |

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|--|--|--|--|
| Walmsley (Head of Streetscene and Waste) |  |  |  |
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This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.