

# AGENDA ITEM 15: APPENDIX J

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 4 FEBRUARY 2014

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### Title:

#### **ASBESTOS POLICY**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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### Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the revised Asbestos Policy that has been produced to enable the Council to fully meet its responsibilities as duty holder in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. The report also reflects the findings of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) following their review of the Council's arrangements for managing asbestos.

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### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

This report supports the Corporate Priority: Affordable Housing – improving the condition of our properties.

### Financial Implications:

There are significant financial costs following adoption of the policy but it is anticipated that the proposed budget each year will be sufficient to implement the range of asbestos management initiatives previously approved by Executive on 3 December 2013.

### Legal Implications:

As the duty holder, the Council has a responsibility for the effective management of asbestos in accordance Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, and an up-to-date, legally compliant and comprehensive asbestos management policy will support the Council in meeting its responsibilities.

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### Background

1. In December 2012, the Council experienced an incident where potential exposure to asbestos containing materials (ACMs) occurred within a residential property owned by the Council. This incident was brought to the attention of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) who subsequently carried out a formal investigation.

2. As reported to the Executive on 03 September 2013, the HSE investigation resulted in the issue of an Improvement Notice to the Council. The Council took this very seriously and used the opportunity to overhaul its approach to the management of asbestos across the Council including the development of a new corporate policy and investing significantly in the procurement of the relevant systems and expertise. The overall aim is to achieve best practice in the overall management of asbestos and to take steps to reduce the risk year on year through the systematic removal of asbestos materials from all Council properties.
3. The new Policy for the Management of Asbestos in Council Premises (Corporate and Housing) has been produced and shared with the HSE in response to their investigation. The HSE have confirmed that this policy, as set out in Annexe 1, is fit for purpose and meets the required standard. The implementation of the Policy and associated actions will be closely monitored by the Council's Corporate Management Team.
4. The HSE has also confirmed that the Improvement Notice served is considered to now be complied with, based on the range of positive actions already taken and proposed by the Council.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. approves the new Policy for the Management of Asbestos in Council Premises (Corporate and Housing) produced to enable the Council to fully discharge its responsibility as duty holder in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012; and
2. notes that the Improvement Notice served by the HSE is now complied with, based on the actions taken and proposed by the Council.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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