

NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE BOARD
27 JANUARY 2010

FIRE SAFETY POLICY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report introduces a draft Fire Safety Policy. The determination and review of health and safety (including fire safety) policy is a matter reserved for the Board under the Company's Standing Orders.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board approve the Fire Safety Policy.

3 REPORT

- 3.1 Nottingham City Homes is required under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to "make and give effect to such arrangements as are appropriate... for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures [identified by risk assessment]". This draft Fire Safety Policy explains the measures that NCH intend to introduce to do this, and who is responsible for doing so.
- 3.2 This draft policy has been developed by the NCH Fire Strategy Group, which has been meeting weekly since September 2009, and has included representation from Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service.
- 3.3 In addition to the measures and responsibility for managing fire safety, this document also clarifies the company position on various current issues that have been the subject of recent discussions between ourselves and the Fire & Rescue Service, including smoke alarms, false alarms, arson, training and vulnerable persons.
- 3.4 Consultation with employees has been carried out through the company Health & Safety Committee.
- 3.5 There is no need to amend the company's Health and Safety Policy; the Fire Safety Policy is a separate document.

4 OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 None proposed

5 FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This policy (or a similar document) is needed to comply with Article 11(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

5.2 Failure to implement fire safety management measures could result in prosecution by the Fire & Rescue Service.

5.3 Employees and residents will benefit greatly from the improvements in fire safety that the effective implementation of this policy will bring.

5.4 Implementation of the fire safety policy would make use of existing resources.

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY HOMES OBJECTIVES

6.1 The fire safety policy is essential to all of the Company's objectives as it will affect the health, safety and wellbeing of all the Company's stakeholders and customers.

7 VALUE FOR MONEY AND EFFICIENCY ISSUES

7.1 Value for money is demonstrated by improved management for no additional cost.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This draft policy includes requirements to assess individual needs in relation to fire safety information, fire alarms, fire evacuations, and allocation of properties.

9 BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

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