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| Committee(s): Housing Committee | Date: 27 February 2023 |
| Subject: Water Hygiene Policy | Wards Affected: All |
| Report of: Julian Higson, Director of Housing (interim) | Public |
| Report Author/s: Name: Johanna Batchelor-Lamey, Compliance Manager Telephone: 01277 312 500 E-mail: johanna.batchelor-lamey@brentwood.gov.uk | For Decision |

Summary

The current policy, which was approved at Enforcement, Environment and Housing committee on 17th March 2020 (minute no.29) set out the proposals for a new Water Hygiene Policy to be implemented within the Housing Department.

The Policy has been reviewed and updated to ensure the Council meets all its statutory requirements. No legislative changes have been implemented since the last policy was approved in March 2020.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

R1. Approve the Housing Water Hygiene Policy

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. The Housing department continues to engage the services of Axis Europe and their water hygiene sub-contractor, HSL, to set out a clear action plan to ensure the safety of all our stock in terms of water hygiene compliance.
2. The Policy sets out the duties we must undertake as a landlord, defines the steps that would be taken if a confirmed legionella positive sample in our buildings is identified, sets out the process and frequency of the water testing regime, usage of thermostatic mixing valves (TMV), confirms the allotted record keeping time, training requirements and the frequency of Water Hygiene Risk Assessments across all housing stock to ensure the Council is compliant.
3. The Policy states the roles and responsibilities of the responsible people and clearly states the point of contact should an incident occur.
4. There have been no legislative changes since this policy was approved but following a review of the policy it was identified that some changes were required.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

5. As it is a Statutory requirement for the Council to have a Water Hygiene Policy, failure to have one does not exclude anyone from the responsibilities of their employed position.
6. To continue our effective management of water hygiene which is fully compliant with HSG 274.

Reasons for Recommendation

7. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to have a Water Hygiene Policy. Failure to have one will leave the Council in a vulnerable position should a legionella outbreak occur.

Consultation

8. Consultations have taken place with the Tenant Liaison Group (Tenant Talkback). All feedback from the consultation has been incorporated.
9. The Policy has also been reviewed externally by our third-party mechanical & electrical consultant, GCS Compliance. They had no further information or comments to add to the policy.
into the draft policies.

References to Corporate Plan

10. Drive continuous improvement of our housing services

11. Delivering an efficient and effective council

Implications

Financial Implications

**Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Director of Assets and Investments Tel & Email:
01277 312500 / phoebe.barnes@brentwood.gov.uk**

There are no direct implications regarding the approval of the policy.

The HRA budgets include a programme for the current water hygiene program of work.
Future budgets need to be aligned to ensure the resources are available to deliver on the policy.

Legal Implications

**Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Corporate Manager (Democratic Services) and
Deputy Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312741/ claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk**

The proposed policy ensures the council is compliant with HSG 274.

Economic Implications

**Name/Title: Phil Drane, Director of Planning and Economy
Tel/Email: 01277 312610/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk**

There are no direct economic implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

**Name/Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager Community
Leisure and Health
Tel/Email: 01277 312500 / kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk**

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful.
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

Appendices: Water Hygiene Policy

