

**From: Eric Hotson, Cabinet Member Corporate & Democratic Services
Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure**

To: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee – 11 May 2018

Decision No: 18/00025

Subject: Kent County Council's Asbestos Policy and Procedures
Key decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Previous Policy 2015

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: All Divisions

Summary: The policy (attached at appendix A) on the management of asbestos in KCC buildings has been reviewed.

This policy provides best practice guidance and general information on the management of asbestos, including current practices and legislative requirements. It provides information on the Council's strategic approach to the management of asbestos within its existing estate and any new buildings.

Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and comment on the proposed decision by the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services to approve the adoption of the Asbestos Policy and Procedures as attached at appendix A.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report outlines the Council's strategy / policy on the management of asbestos across its property portfolio outlining our approach to new and existing building stock.
- 1.2 The purpose is to ensure that all the Council's existing, and future, building portfolio meets legislative requirements and best practice standards in relation to asbestos management.
- 1.3 The objective is to ensure that current buildings are safe and where the Council is constructing / occupying new buildings, that a unified risk-based approach is undertaken.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The rolling program of risk assessments / survey programme, forms an integral part of the statutory compliance package which is managed on a day to day basis by GEN2 as our managing agent. The asbestos survey costs are split out below in 2.2 for the Corporate landlord buildings and schools.

2.2 Total cost for Corporate Landlord approximately £100,000

Total cost for Schools approximately £320,000

2.3 Remedial works of Corporate landlord and school buildings relating to asbestos can be difficult to correctly estimate as it is dependent on the size and complexity of the situation.

The Report

3.1 The previous asbestos policy within the Council was approved in 2015. This policy has been reviewed to ensure that the Council is meeting its statutory duties and legislative requirements.

3.2 The policy recommends and clearly defines: -

- KCC's roles and responsibilities and those within our supply chain
- the Council's commitment in preventing or minimising the risk from asbestos related diseases
- affirms the Council's commitment to have in place control measures that adhere to the principals of risk assessment and comply with statutory requirements
- the control system in place to ensure that measures are being implemented, are effective, records are kept and the policy is reviewed on a bi-annual basis or if there are changes to legislation
- its application to all buildings owned or occupied by the Council. Where the Council does not own the property, it will establish who is liable for its maintenance. It will also ensure that they have an asbestos management plan in place and all relevant information is passed to the tenants and the Council. In cases where the liability cannot be established, the Council will carry out a risk assessment to ensure that staff can occupy the area and take appropriate steps for managing the risk, in the areas so far as is reasonably practicable.

3.3 It is important that KCC has a robust policy to maintain our current practice by following the established management of asbestos as part of the Council's overall planned preventative maintenance and statutory maintenance regime.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The Asbestos Policy and Procedures meets all statutory and best practice requirements.

5. Recommendation(s):

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and comment on the proposed decision by the Cabinet Member of Corporate and Democratic Services to approve the adoption of the Asbestos Policy and Procedures as attached at Appendix A.

6. Background Documents

- 6.1 KCC - The Asbestos Policy and Procedures
- 6.2 Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974
- 6.3 The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

7. Contact details

Report Author:

Name and title: Tony Carty, Health and Safety Business Operations Manager

Telephone number 03000 417243

Email address anthony.carty@kent.gov.uk

Report Author:

Name and title: Karen Ripley, Head of Property Commissioning

Telephone number 03000 413457

Email address karen.ripley@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

Name and title Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure

Telephone number 03000 416716

Email address rebecca.spore@kent.gov.uk