

# Health and Safety

## Policy Statement



**Essex County Council believes that its people are its most valuable resource and that their health, safety and wellbeing is of paramount importance.**

The council considers the successful management of health and safety to be a key management objective and an integral part of our business activities. We are committed to reducing and preventing workplace injuries, ill health, and unnecessary losses and liabilities so far as is reasonably practicable.

**Essex County Council is committed to:**

- › compliance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements
- › providing a robust, systematic and sustainable health and safety management system
- › ensuring health and safety roles and responsibilities are understood and communicated throughout the organisation and to stakeholders
- › identifying our health and safety risks and ensuring the provision of suitable and sufficient risk control measures
- › providing comprehensive information, instruction, training and supervision
- › consulting with employees, trade unions, enforcing authorities and other stakeholders on health and safety issues
- › providing a healthy and safe work environment
- › providing appropriate emergency arrangements, equipment and facilities
- › continual improvement in all areas of health and safety management.

All Essex County Council functions, services, managers, employees and partners shall carry out their duties in line with Essex County Council's commitment and standards by achieving legal compliance as the minimum standard, whilst improving towards best practice in the workplace.

We expect all employees, contractors and visitors to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions. All employees and contractors must use the equipment, tools and systems provided, and co-operate with Essex County Council in ensuring compliance with all legal requirements and standards.

The council's Members, Corporate Management Board and Cabinet accept their health and safety responsibilities and are committed to developing a culture that supports the effective management of health and safety at all levels. The Corporate Management Board will provide the necessary physical and financial resources, provide active leadership and obtain any necessary expert advice in order to demonstrate our commitment to and support for the health and safety policy.

Essex County Council's health and safety objectives will be developed and monitored and be subjected to periodic audits and annual reviews.

**Gavin Jones**  
Chief Executive



**Cllr David Finch**  
Leader of the Council  
Cabinet Member with responsibility  
for Health and Safety  
March 2016

