

Report To:	CABINET
Date:	8TH APRIL 2024
Heading:	VOLUNTEER POLICY UPDATE
Executive Lead Member:	CLLR CHRIS HUSKINSON, EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR LEISURE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	YES
Subject to Call-In:	YES

Purpose of Report

To share the updated Volunteer Policy.

Recommendation(s)

To approve the updated Volunteer Policy.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Council's Volunteer Policy was last updated in 2020 and it is timely to review the Policy to ensure it is fit for purpose and compliant with any changes in legislation.

Alternative Options Considered

To keep the current Policy with no updates would not be acceptable because of changes in policy, procedure and legislation.

Detailed Information

The Volunteer Policy provides a framework for the development of activity with volunteers across the authority in a common, consistent, equitable and sustainable way whilst demonstrating the commitment that the Council has to the range of volunteer contributions and added value made to Council services.

The Council's Volunteer Policy was last updated in 2020 and it is timely to review the Policy again to ensure it is fit for purpose and compliant with any changes in legislation. The main changes have been in bringing it up to date, simplifying the process and language and taking account of legislative changes in health and safety, insurance and data protection.

The Volunteer Policy has been reviewed with teams within the Council: Legal; Human Resources; Corporate Safety; Insurance; Neighbourhoods and Regeneration.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The policy supports the Council's corporate priorities of Health and Happiness and Cleaner and Greener.

Legal:

The Policy complies with relevant legislation. [RLD 14/03/2024]

Finance: No financial implications arising from this Policy update. [PH 11/03/2024].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/a
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/a
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/a
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/a

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
No risks identified in updating the policy	Not applicable.

Human Resources:

Volunteering is of great value to an organisation and to the volunteer. In terms of HR there are no direct implications as they are not employees of the Council and care must be taken not to use them to cover vacancies as per the policy.

Environmental/Sustainability:

Volunteers at Ashfield District Council often get involved with activities such as litter picking, tree planting and site clean ups, all of which have a positive environmental impact in the District.

Equalities:

The policy includes an 'Access for All' statement.

Other Implications:

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable

Background Papers

Volunteer Policy February 2024

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