1. **Introduction**

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (the Council) has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and others who may be affected by activities on its premises.

This policy statement and associated Fire Safety Management Plan (Management Plan) has been developed to ensure that fire safety systems and procedures are in place to manage the risk associated with fire and to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.

1. **Policy Statement:**

The Council recognises that fire is a major threat to the activities of the Council. An outbreak of even a small fire creates risk to life and property, damage to the environment and may compromise normal business activities.

The Council is committed to protecting the health and safety of their employees, contractors, clients and visitors who may be affected by their activities, along with ensuring compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation.

# Policy Objectives

The Council, as the “Duty Holder”, by making this policy commits to provide safe working conditions for its employees, and others who may be affected by activities in its premises.

The Council through this policy commits to assess the risks of fire within all its premises and to implement appropriate fire safety precautions in each premise.

The Council through the successful implementation of its Management Plan will meet these policy objectives.

# Scope

This policy applies to all premises including temporary structures such as marquees and activities falling, to any extent, under the Council’s control. The policy and associated Management Plan sets down the framework by which the Council, all employees, contractors and visitors will be expected to meet their legal duties.

The Management Plan details the requirements and standards that must be complied with to reduce the risk of fire within Council premises, provide safe egress from Council properties in the event of a fire and maintain compliance with all applicable health and safety legislation.

The Management Plan provides a standardised approach for all persons who are responsible for managing workplaces, premises and facilities and work activities, thus ensuring consistency across the Council.

# Definitions

**Duty Holder** – Organisation responsible for ensuring compliance with the relevant legal duty.

# Related Policies and Guidance

This document should be read in conjunction with the following: -

* Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Health & Safety Policy
* Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Health & Safety Policy Organisational Procedures
* Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Fire Safety Management Plan (Management Plan)

Other relevant statutory regulations and documents to be consulted as part of the policy include: -

* Health & Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978
* Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (NI)2000
* Fire Safety Regulations (NI) 2010
* Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (NI) 2003

1. **Equality Screening & Good Relations**

The policy has been equality screened and the outcome is that it not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required).

1. **Rural Impact Assessment**

Due regard to rural needs has been considered and a rural needs impact assessment has been completed.

# Document Authorisation

SMT 3rd March 2020

CMT 28th February 2020

Corporate Health & Safety Committee 28th February 2020

Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee (for noting) 12th March 2020

# Document Owner

Assistant Director: Facilities Management & Maintenance, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Facilities Management and Maintenance Department.

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# Effective Date

12th March 2020

# Review Date

Review of Policy at least biannually.