

Durrington Town Council Fire Policy

POLICY REVIEW	Annually - reviewed Jan 2026
signed	
Minute reference	31/24 e.
Date ratified	25 th June 2024
Date of next review	Jan 2027

1. **Introduction** Durrington Town Council (“the Council”) is committed to providing a safe working environment for its staff and visitors. For this reason, the Council has formulated this policy to facilitate compliance with its legal obligations under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (“Fire Safety Order”).
2. **Policy objectives**
 - 2.1 To provide a safe and healthy working environment for all staff and visitors.
 - 2.2 To minimise the risks to Council premises and any others that may be affected by fire.
 - 2.3 To manage fire risks in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Safety Order.
 - 2.4 To comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Fire Safety Order.
 - 2.5 To address obligations under the Fire Safety Order that require the Council to:
 - 2.5.1 Develop a policy to minimise the risks associated with fire.
 - 2.5.2 Reduce the risk of an outbreak and subsequent spread of fire.
 - 2.5.3 Provide means of escape.
 - 2.5.4 Demonstrate preventative action.
 - 2.5.5 Maintain documentation and records in respect of fire safety management.

3. The Responsible Persons

Within the Council the responsible person is the Town Council with day-to-day responsibility for ensuring the management of fire safety risks is delegated to Alison Budge Deputy Clerk and Mark Keane Facilities Supervisor. The responsible person's duties are to ensure the safety of staff and visitors by:

- 3.1 Carrying out (or ensuring that a competent person carries out) a Fire Safety Risk Assessment. The Fire Safety Risk Assessment will take into consideration everyone who may come onto the premises, whether they are employees or visitors and consideration will be given to people who may have a disability or anyone with special needs.
- 3.2 Making sure, as far as is reasonably practical, that everyone on the premises, or nearby, can escape safely if there is a fire.
- 3.3 Preparing a written Emergency Action/Evacuation Plan for the building to be displayed at various locations about the premises.
- 3.4 Preparing Personal Evacuation Plans for disabled persons (if relevant).

4. Fire Marshals

The Council will appoint competent persons to act as Fire Marshals. The Fire Marshals' duties will include:

- 4.1 Carrying out regular checks on all fire safety equipment including emergency lights and alarms.
- 4.2 Ensuring that emergency escape routes are kept clear at all times and that doors designated as Fire Escapes are operable.
- 4.3 Assisting in evacuations/fire drills.
- 4.4 Contacting the emergency services.
- 4.5 Ensuring that the names and duties of all competent persons are displayed on the safety notice board.

5. Communication

The Council will ensure that all persons employed either as direct employees or contractors are provided with all relevant information related to fire safety. The Management of the Council will consult with the employees (where relevant) on all relevant matters of fire safety policy and arrangements and will ensure staff are kept informed of any changes that are made to fire safety procedures.

6. Training

- 6.1 Upon commencement of employment all employees (where relevant) will be given training on fire safety and will receive refresher training as appropriate.
- 6.2 All employees will be instructed to report any defective or missing equipment to their line manager.
- 6.3 All employees will receive instruction on their role in the case of an emergency.
- 6.4 Further training may be required if there are any changes that may affect fire safety. All training will be provided during normal working hours.

7. Equipment/Testing

- 7.1 The fire evacuation procedures will be practised every six months.
- 7.2 Firefighting equipment will be provided. In general, this means fire extinguishers but additional provision of fire blankets, hoses or sprinklers may be made where deemed appropriate by the findings of the fire safety risk assessment.
- 7.3 All fire safety equipment will be serviced by a competent person and the service periods will be scheduled in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
- 7.4 An appropriate fire detection and alarm system will be installed. The type and extent of the alarm system provided will be based on the findings of the fire safety risk assessment. Alarm systems will be tested regularly. Staff and visitors will be informed when these tests are scheduled.
- 7.5 Emergency lighting will be provided for escape routes where applicable. The location and type will be determined by the findings of the fire safety risk assessment.
- 7.6 Operation of fire exit doors, including any automatic closers, will be tested and recorded in the fire log on a weekly basis.
- 7.7 Any other safety systems installed, such as emergency lighting and fire doors, will be checked regularly to ensure correct operation.

8. Procedures

The Council has introduced the following procedures in order to maintain high standards of fire safety:

- 8.1 Emergency escape routes will be established and kept free from obstruction at all times;
- 8.2 Fire exit doors will be kept in good working order and unlocked at all times the premises are occupied;
- 8.3 The risk of fire spreading through the building will be controlled by the provision of fire/smoke resisting doors;
- 8.4 Signs and notices will be displayed in prominent locations, giving appropriate instructions to employees and others of what to do in the event of a fire;
- 8.5 Signs will be provided to indicate the position of fire extinguishers, fire alarm call points and to indicate the emergency exit routes.

9. Records

The Council will record its staff training including fire drills, and the findings of its periodic tests and checks. Such records will include all attendees, fire drill evacuation times and any comments. The Council will keep the following records:

- 9.1 Records of weekly tests of fire alarms, fire exits.
- 9.2 Records of weekly flow tests of sprinkler systems (where fitted).
- 9.3 Records of wet and dry tests of dry rising mains (where fitted).
- 9.4 Record of annual inspection and test of all firefighting equipment.
- 9.5 Records of periodic tests of emergency lighting (where fitted).

- 9.6 Records of all scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems.
- 9.7 Records of the inspection, risk assessment and maintenance of workplace and electrical equipment, of storage of hazardous substances and of any other hazards identified with fire safety (where appropriate).

This Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. The management team endorses this policy and is fully committed to its implementation.

Name:	Jo Tudor
Position:	Town Clerk
Signature:	
Date:	June 2024
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Issue No:	1
Amendments from previous:	0
Other comments:	