



“Through the way we work and behave, all our people and working partners will be protected from risks of occupational injury or ill health.”

## PART I

### **Our Health and Safety Policy: Statement of intent**

It is our intent to demonstrate an ongoing and determined commitment to improving health and safety at work throughout our organisation.

We will ensure the health and safety at work of all our people and any other people who may be affected by our work activities. We will comply with the requirements of health and safety legislation.

We will aim for excellence in health and safety by adopting good practice for National Park Authorities (NPAs), meeting or exceeding the guidance of the Health and Safety Executive and other regulatory bodies.

This policy reflects our commitment to ensuring that health and safety at work is paramount to our purpose, and that effective health and safety actively contributes to our success.

**1. AWARENESS: “All our people and the people we work with, have an awareness and understanding of health and safety hazards and risks that affect our business.”**

#### 1.1 Health and Safety Policy statement.

Adequate resources will be provided to ensure all our people, contractors and working partners are aware of this policy and committed to its effective implementation.

#### 1.2 Communication and consultation.

There will be active open communication and consultation between all our people, contractors and working partners. Health and safety will be integrated into our communications, wherever appropriate.

#### 1.3 Management roles and responsibilities.

Roles and responsibilities for health and safety will be defined, as necessary, within job descriptions and routinely included in work programmes. Management will ensure that:

- adequate resources are provided for health and safety;
- health and safety is adequately assessed, controlled and monitored; and
- our people are actively involved on matters that affect health and safety.

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## 1.4 Hazard identification.

We will identify our workplace health and safety hazards. We will inform our people, contractors and working partners, as appropriate, of these workplace hazards.

We will require, as far as is practicable, our contractors and working partners to identify any health and safety hazards they create or control, that may impact on our work activities.

**2. COMPETENCE: “All our people and working partners have the competence to undertake their work with minimum risks to health and safety.”**

## 2.1 Health and safety training.

All our people will be adequately instructed and trained on the health and safety issues that affect them, and the safe working practices that should be followed.

We will ensure the health and safety competence of our contractors and working partners.

## 2.2 Behaviour and culture.

The Leadership Team (LT) will demonstrate leadership in health and safety, ensuring that health and safety issues are identified, assessed and managed. Systems will be in place and people will be empowered to raise health and safety concerns with all levels of management. Where it is identified that a serious health and safety matter has not been adequately dealt with, these matters may be 'escalated' for LT intervention.

## 2.3 Risk assessment and management.

We will assess the risks associated with health and safety hazards in the workplace. All our people will be informed of the health and safety hazards and risks that affect their work. We will take action to prevent, reduce or control risks to an acceptable level and reduce the potential for incidents and accidents. We will require our contractors and working partners to identify health and safety risks that may impact on our work activities.

**3. COMPLIANCE: “Our work activities achieve compliance with legislation, and our people are empowered to take action to minimise health and safety risks.”**

## 3.1 Incident investigation.

We will report and investigate accidents, incidents and near misses to drive improvement in our health and safety management. Any lessons learned from such events will be used to take corrective action to prevent recurrences.

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### 3.2 Measuring performance.

We will actively and openly, review and report on our health and safety performance and action plans will be developed to support improved performance where identified.

### 3.3 Health and safety management system.

We will implement management systems to ensure we:

- comply with health and safety legislation; and
- continually improve our health and safety performance.

### 3.4 Contractor improvement.

We will engage and collaborate with our contractors to ensure their:

- health and safety capability and competence fulfil our expectations;
- health and safety performance is monitored and reviewed; and
- work activities have minimal health and safety impacts on our activities.

## **4. EXCELLENCE: “The NPA is recognised for excellence in the way it manages health and safety.”**

### 4.1 Developing innovative practices.

We will support the development of health and safety good practice working alongside other NPAs.

### 4.2 Influencing working partners.

We will, wherever practicable, only work with others who are willing to meet and achieve our health and safety expectations. We will engage and influence working partners to drive improvements in health and safety.

### 4.3 Work-related health.

We will assess our occupational health risks. All our people will be informed of the occupational health risks that affect their work. We will take action to prevent, reduce or control occupational health risks to an acceptable level and reduce the potential for ill health, including assessing all our people’s fitness for work. Health surveillance will be conducted, as necessary.

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## PART II

### 5. Delivering our policy

Our policy will be delivered by:

- generating a culture that does not tolerate threats to health and safety
- ensuring the real involvement of all our people, contractors and working partners
- all Directorates, Services and Teams implementing management systems and processes that fully explain how this policy will be delivered in the workplace

#### 5.1 Organisation and arrangements for implementing the Authority's Health and Safety Policy

Roles and responsibilities for Authority Members, all tiers of management, those with special responsibilities for occupational health and safety and for all staff are clearly stated in job descriptions.

##### 5.1.1 Authority Members

Authority Members have a duty to ensure that health and safety is effectively managed through the organisation. Having delegated authority to deal with health and safety matters to the Leadership Team and Heads of Services/Team Managers, Members ensure that there are in place comprehensive corporate health and safety arrangements through the scrutiny of reports at the Audit & Governance Committee.

##### 5.1.2 Chief Executive Officer and the Leadership Team

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for providing leadership to LT. LT is responsible for setting the strategic direction of health and safety management, ensuring delivery and for monitoring and reviewing health and safety performance. LT shall receive an annual report on safety performance from the Health & Safety Adviser (currently provided by Teignbridge District Council) and conduct an annual review of this Policy.

##### 5.1.3 Leadership Team shall:

- (a) allocate appropriate resources to enable Heads of Services and Team Managers to discharge their health and safety responsibilities;
- (b) commission investigations in the cause of work-related accidents which involve a fatality, specified injury, occupational disease or dangerous occurrence, as defined in the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

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## 5.1.4 Head of Organisational Development

The Head of Organisational Development will act as LT lead on health and safety, including representation from and to the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee.

## 5.1.5 Heads of Service/Team Managers

Heads of Service shall be responsible for putting the Authority's policy arrangements into practical effect to properly manage workplace risks for their service(s). Though this may in practice be devolved to other staff and services, the responsibility will remain with the Head of Service.

Heads of Service/Team Managers are responsible for the day-to-day operational safety management of their team members and others working with or for them, for risks which they create or have control over. Key safety management tasks include:

- (a) ensuring that all employees (and particularly those engaged in high risk activities) are given sufficient information, appropriately supervised and/or trained and are suitably competent, for the tasks they are expected to undertake;
- (b) where necessary, the production, maintenance and use of suitable and sufficient risk assessments;
- (c) ensuring that all safeguards and safety procedures identified by risk assessments and by other relevant documents, such as manufacturers operating instructions, are properly used and followed;
- (d) ensuring that an incident report form is completed and received for any significant incident, including accidents, near-misses and incidents of violence;
- (e) consider, for all reported incidents received, whether any further action is necessary and for these incidents complete an incident investigation report. Completed reports are sent to a Director/Head of Service for comment;
- (f) ensuring appropriate arrangements are put in place for dealing with emergencies;
- (g) ensuring that work to be carried out by contractors is organised and managed so that risks to Authority staff, contractors and members of the public are reduced to the lowest practicable level.

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### 5.1.7 Employees and Authority Members

There is a general legal requirement for all those at work to work safely, so that neither they nor anyone else is put at risk. This means that:

- (a) employees and Members shall co-operate with managers so that the Authority is not prevented from carrying out its legal obligations;
- (b) all safeguards, safety procedures and other controls identified by risk assessments shall be complied with;
- (c) any accident, near-miss or violent incident shall be reported promptly to the appropriate line manager using an official accident report form.

### 5.1.8 Role of the Health & Safety Adviser

The Authority has a service level agreement with Teignbridge District Council that provides access to a professional strategic and operational health and safety service, including an appointed Health & Safety Adviser, who is responsible to the Head of Organisational Development. The role of the Health & Safety Adviser includes:

- a) the provision of competent advice in respect of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) to the Authority, its officers and staff;
- b) carrying out premise and service OHS inspections and audits identifying any matters requiring attention, giving advice and assisting in the completion of those actions where appropriate;
- c) assisting line managers in the preparation and review of specific risk assessments, on request;
- d) supporting the provision of OHS training as necessary/appropriate;
- e) conducting incident/accident investigations as directed by the Authority and its officers.
- f) the introduction, maintenance and continuous development/improvement of suitable corporate systems and processes to ensure key statutory obligations are met in respect of OHS;
- g) the production of an annual OHS report providing evidence of the Authority meeting its statutory obligations, making continuous improvements in OHS management, identifying incidents and actions taken in the previous year and planning for further improvements.

### 5.1.9 Role of Safety Representatives

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Safety Representatives play a key role in promoting and supporting good health and safety management. Safety Representatives are all members of the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee and represent all areas of the Authority and its staff. The role of Health and Safety Representatives includes:

- a) participating as a member of the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee and attending meetings of the committee as required;
- b) promoting good health and safety practice;
- c) acting as a point of contact for all staff, volunteers and members for all matters concerning occupational health and safety;
- d) encouraging and monitoring incident and near-miss reporting and initiating further incident investigation, where necessary;
- e) monitoring and reporting on working practices to line managers in accordance with a forward work programme agreed by the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee;
- f) reporting all activity performed and findings to the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee.

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## PART III

### 6. Governance arrangements

6.1 A Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee is constituted under the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977. It comprises:

- Head of Organisational Development
- Head of Access, Recreation & Estates (Premises Lead)
- UNISON Accredited H&S Representative
- Health & Safety Adviser
- Staff representatives

The Committee, which has both consultative and performance management roles, shall routinely meet four times a year in January, April, July and October. At the April meeting the Committee will:

- (a) receive and review the Health and Safety Annual Report from the previous year. This report shall include performance information;
- (b) agree and set strategic objectives for the following year. This to include health and safety training and system developments including new documentation such as policies, procedures, codes of practice, briefing notes and other guidance;
- (c) consider any further safety matters raised by UNISON and staff.

At the October meeting the Committee will:

- (d) receive, review and agree the Health and Safety Policy to be implemented the following year;
- (e) receive an update on progress with meeting strategic objectives (see above);
- (f) consider any further safety matters raised by UNISON and staff.

The constitution of the Committee allows for the co-option of other members of staff and specialists as necessary.

The Committee may convene a meeting at any other time, as necessary, to be arranged by mutual consensus.

6.2 Leadership Team (LT) receives, reviews and approves the Annual Report and the Health and Safety Policy following the respective Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee meetings for implementation the following year. LT also receives, reviews and approves health and safety good practice for NPAs and will consider adopting this as DNPA policy for dealing with particular safety





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matters in accordance with agreed strategic objectives. LT may also receive reports of safety matters escalated to executive level for action and incident investigations sponsored by its' members.

- 6.3 The Joint Staff Forum receives, for information, minutes of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee.
- 6.4 The Audit and Governance Committee receives for approval the Annual Report on Occupational Safety and Health and any revised Health and Safety Policy for implementation. The Audit and Governance Committee receives such reports on behalf of the Authority.

### Signed on behalf of Dartmoor National Park Authority

..... Date: 18/2/2025.....

**Chief Executive (National Park Officer)**

### Signed on behalf of DNPA UNISON

..... Date: 17/2/2025.....