**REYNOLDSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Policy for the control of substances hazardous to health**

**Agreed at council 12th March 2024**

**Introduction**

Hazardous substances can be brought into the premises for use in various activities and processes and can also be generated as a result of a process or activity. Exposure to hazardous substances can result in short- and long-term ill-health and injury, and even to fatalities.

The Community Council undertakes to:

* identify and maintain records of all hazardous substances used or created in the workplace and keep suppliers’ safety data sheets available
* use safer substances where suitable substitutes exist
* risk assess work activities involving hazardous substances
* record the findings of the risk assessments, and review them periodically or when changes occur
* introduce effective control measures to ensure exposure to hazardous substances is prevented, where it is reasonably practicable, or adequately controlled to minimise the health risk
* take steps to ensure the use of control measures
* maintain control measures in effective working order and, where appropriate, ensure that they are periodically examined and tested
* undertake monitoring of exposure to hazardous substances, where appropriate
* place employees under suitable health surveillances in appropriate cases
* ensure that those responsible for managing work likely to result in exposure to hazardous substances are adequately trained and competent
* inform, instruct and train employees about the risks and the precautions to be taken to protect themselves or others from the harmful effects of hazardous substances
* ensuring that in appropriate cases suitable arrangements are in place for dealing with accidents, incidents and emergencies
* ensure no new substances are introduced into our work activities without approval of a designated manager, and before an assessment of the risk is carried out.