

Item 8 Annual Corporate Health & Safety Report and Action Plan 2011-2012

Report of the Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the contents of the Report and Action Plan be approved

SUMMARY:

The report covers the year 2011/2012 and demonstrates the Council's compliance with its statutory responsibilities under the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and its commitment to:

- Protecting the health, safety and welfare of its employees, contractors, volunteers, clients, service users and members of the public.
- The on-going effective implementation of the Council's health & safety policy, organisation and arrangements in accordance with the provisions of The Health & Safety at Work etc. 1974 and the HSE guidance on "Leading health and safety at work" and the 4 Principles of health & safety management."
- The monitoring and measurement of the Council's health & safety performance, with a view to highlighting areas of good performance and areas for improvement.
- Fulfilling its obligations under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007
- Openness and accountability in all the services the Council provides
- Making public the organisation's performance in health & safety matters

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. In addition good health & safety management practice stipulates that an Annual Report and Plan of the organisation's health and safety performance be produced. This in turn should be approved Senior Management and Members before being publicised to show a commitment to accountability and transparency.
- 1.2 Compliance with the provisions of the Health and Safety legislation and a high standard of safety management and performance effectively maximises an organisations ability to meet its obligations as specified in the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007.

2 Background

- 2.1 As in previous years, Corporate Annual Reports have been prepared and presented to Senior Management. The next stage is to pass the Annual Report and Action Plan to elected Members for approval in order that it can be made available to stakeholders. The HSE guidance on “Leading health and safety at work” and the 4 Principles of health & safety management” requires that an organisation performance for health & safety compliance be made public and reported, in the case of a local authority, to elected members.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 In presenting the Corporate Annual Report to the General Purposes Committee, the Council is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities, adhering to HSE guidance, fulfilling its commitment to staff and stakeholders and making its commitment to health & safety transparent to all.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The nature of this report does not require consultation to take place. However it will be communicated to stakeholders and afford them the opportunity to give their comments.

5 Options

- 5.1 Failure to produce such an Annual Report and Plan would potentially expose the Council to action by the Health and Safety Executive. In addition it is expected that an organisation such as the Council would comply with the guidance given by the HSE and publicise its health & safety performance.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 The publication of the Corporate Annual Report will ensure the Council’s compliance with legal requirements and guidance.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report indicate that further risk assessment is not needed because the changes/issues covered do not represent significant risks or have previously been considered by Councillors (General Purposes Committee Document 11681 Item 208 Meeting dated 24.09.08 & General Purposes Committee Document 14473 Item 199 Meeting dated 29.09.10).

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no additional resource implications of the recommended option.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 Failure to produce such an Annual Report and Plan would potentially expose the Council to action being taken by the Health and Safety Executive.

10 Equality Issues

10.1 An EQIA is not needed because the issues covered have previously been considered by Councillors (General Purposes Committee Document 11681 Item 208 Meeting dated 24.09.08 & General Purposes Committee Document 14473 Item 199 Meeting dated 29.09.10).

11 Other Issues

11.1 Community Safety - No direct issues

11.2 Environmental Health/Sustainability Issues - No direct issues

11.3 Property Issues - No direct issues

11.4 Wards/Communities Affected - No direct issues

12 Conclusion

12.1 The approval of the Corporate Annual Health & Safety Report and the Action Plan will show the Council's commitment to the HSE Guidance and to fulfilling its obligations under the Health & Safety at Work etc. act 1974 and the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	
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Report to:	General Purposes	Date:	10 July 2012