

ITEM 7 Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2013/14 & Action Plan 2014/15

Report of the Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2013/14 and Action Plan be approved

SUMMARY:

The report covers the year 2013/2014 and demonstrates the Council's compliance with its statutory responsibilities under the Health and 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 and safety policy, organisation and arrangements in accordance with the provisions of The Health and Safety at Work etc. 1974 and the Health and Safety Executive 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 and safety matters

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. In addition it is suggested by the Health and Safety Executive that it is good health and safety management practice to produce an Annual Report and Plan of the organisation's health and safety performance. This in turn should be approved by 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 Health and Safety Executive guidance on “Leading health and safety at work” and the 4 Principles of health and safety management” requires that an organisation performance for health and 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 Health and Safety Executive guidance, fulfilling its commitment to staff and stakeholders and making its commitment to health and 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 The examination of potential Options is not applicable under these circumstances. The Health and Safety Executive expects that an organisation such as the Council would comply with the guidance given by the Health and Safety Executive on health and safety management and therefore publicise its health and safety performance.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 There is no scope for Option appraisal however 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 29 September 2010 Item 199 “Annual Corporate Health & Safety Report 2009-2010”).

8 Resource Implications

8.1 There are no additional resource implications.

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 29 September 2010 Item 199 “Annual Corporate Health & Safety Report 2009-2010”). An EQIA was produced for this report.

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 and reasons for recommendation

12.1 The approval of the Corporate Annual Health and Safety Report 2013/14 and the Action Plan will show the Council’s commitment to the Health Safety Executive Guidance and to fulfilling its obligations under the Health and 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:	24 September 2014