

## **ITEM 6 Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2015/16**

Report of the Environmental Portfolio Holder

### **Recommended:**

**That the Annual Corporate Health and Safety Report 2015/16 as shown in the annex to the report be approved.**

#### **SUMMARY:**

The report covers the year 2015/16 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 ongoing 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. Act 1974 and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on 'Leading Health and Safety at Work'.
- The monitoring and measurement of the Council's health and 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 (HSE) that it is good health and safety management practice to produce an annual report 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 health and safety legislation together with a high standard of safety management and performance, effectively maximises an organisation's ability to meet its obligations as specified in the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 As in previous years, a corporate annual report has been prepared and circulated to senior management. The next stage is to pass this report to elected Members for approval in order that it can be made available to stakeholders. The HSE guidance 'Leading Health and Safety at Work' requires that an organisation's performance in health and safety compliance be reported and made public. In the case of local authorities, this includes the 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 obligations, adhering to HSE guidance, fulfilling its responsibilities 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 would expect an organisation such as the Council to comply with its published guidance on health and safety management and would therefore publicise its performance.

## **6 Option Appraisal**

- 6.1 There is no scope for optional 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 Members (General Purposes Committee, 29 September 2010, Minute 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 an annual report could potentially expose the Council to action being taken by the HSE.

## 10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 An equality impact assessment (EQIA) is not required because the issues covered have previously been considered by Members (General Purposes Committee, 29 September 2010, Minute 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 Issues – No direct issues
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – No direct issues
- 11.4 Property Issues – No direct issues
- 11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – No direct issues

## 12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 12.1 The approval of the Corporate Annual Health and Safety Report 2015/16 will show the Council’s adherence to HSE guidance and its commitment 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>			
None			
<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:	
(Portfolio: Environmental Portfolio Holder) Councillor Stallard			
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Report to:	General Purposes	Date:	2 November 2016