

Audit and Governance Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

DATE: 11 July 2012

Health and Safety Annual Report 2011/12

Recommendation

That the committee notes the annual Health and Safety report and endorse the health and safety action plan for 2012/13

Purpose of Report

1. This report has been brought to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to enable the Committee to scrutinise the councils' progress against our statutory health and safety responsibilities.

Strategic Objectives

2. Meeting our health and safety responsibilities is a core part of the councils' business and therefore underpins all of our strategic objectives. In particular it contributes to the objective of effective management of resources.

Background

3. The Health and Safety Advisor is responsible for advising all teams on health and safety issues, developing corporate health and safety policy and processes, and auditing all teams compliance with corporate health and safety requirements. The Health and Safety Review Board (HSRB), consisting of the Strategic Management Board, and the Leaders of each council consider an annual update report on health and safety issues – attached – in order to satisfy themselves that the Councils' are

managing and addressing health and safety risks adequately. The Board also agrees the action plan for the forthcoming year; this forms the basis of the Health and Safety Advisor's workplan for the year.

4. In previous years the councils' progress on health and safety matters has been the subject of an internal audit report, which has been considered by this committee. To avoid duplication of effort the HSRB has agreed that the annual report itself should be brought to this Committee rather than being the subject of a further internal audit.
5. The committee is invited to scrutinise the councils' health and safety performance as set out in the attached report and to endorse the health and safety action plan for 2012/13.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The cost of any actions included in the 2012/13 action plan can be accommodated within existing resources. Non-compliance with health and safety requirements may leave the councils' vulnerable to challenge and/or insurance claims and therefore to potential additional costs.

Legal Implications

7. The councils' have a legal requirement to comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, to ensure the health and safety of our employees and any others that may be affected by our activities, and to meet our legal requirements under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974; and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. This annual report sets out how the council is achieving this.

Risks

8. If we do not manage our health and safety risks and comply with relevant health and safety requirements the councils' could be at risk of an increase in accidents/ill health and/or property damage and associated financial and legal implications.

Conclusion

9. The councils' progress on health and safety is set out in the attached annual Health and Safety report 2011/12. The committee is invited to scrutinise current performance as set out in the report and endorse the health and safety action plan for 2012/13.

Background Papers

- Relevant Health and Safety legislation <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>
- All current health and safety policies are available on the councils' intranet site.