
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND HSE WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report requests Members to endorse a Statement of Intent to improve health and safety at work.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) have unveiled a Statement of Intent, setting out their joint commitment to improving how HSE and local government work together to improve health and safety at work.
- 2.2 Developing an effective partnership between local government and HSE in how health and safety is enforced is one of the strategic themes of the Health and Safety Commission's (HSC) Strategy for Workplace Health and Safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond.

3 STATEMENT OF INTENT

- 3.1 The Statement of Intent sets out the high-level commitments that provide the framework of objectives for the Strategic Programme and achievement of the Vision. The Vision is of Local Authorities (LAs) and HSE working jointly in partnership locally, regionally and nationally, to a common set of goals and standards, committed to focusing resources on agreed health and safety priorities. The aim is to minimise harm to those in the workplace or those affected by workplace activities, and contribute to the health and well-being of local communities. The Strategic Programme includes working in partnership, improving communications between the partners, sharing information, examining the legal framework, developing arrangements for monitoring the work of the enforcing authorities and working with other government departments.
- 3.2 The Strategic Programme is currently in its development stage, but early activities include the piloting of joint working initiatives, examination of existing examples of good practice, the establishment by HSE of "Partnership Managers" to work with local authorities and developing communications.
- 3.3 The Statement of Intent has been signed by the heads of the key local government representative bodies, the Local Government Association, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, LACORS, the HSC and the HSE.

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- 3.4 A local version of the Statement has been produced and the Council has been asked to endorse the Statement to raise the political profile of health and safety and the partnership between local authorities and HSE.
- 3.5 A copy of the local Statement of Intent is appended, incorporating a section for endorsement by each local authority together with a senior official from the relevant HSE Division in the English Regions, Wales and Scotland.
- 3.6 Councillor R Amner is attending a briefing with the HSE on 18 March 2005 and will be asked to sign the Statement on behalf of the Council.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Sensible health and safety is a cornerstone of a civilised society. The public and political profile of health and safety needs to be raised so that it is seen as a vital component of worker and public protection and an intrinsic part of community health and well-being. To achieve these aims and to improve health and safety in Great Britain, attitudes and cultures need to change and all organisations responsible for health and safety must work together in closer partnership.
- 4.2 Failure to endorse the Statement of Intent is likely to be seen as resistance to partnership working and to the implementation of national priorities.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the Council signs the Statement of Intent with the Health and Safety Executive.

Graham Woolhouse

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Background Papers:-

LACORS and HSE newsletter dated September 2004

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