

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY 7 JUNE 2011

**EXECUTIVE
21 JUNE 2011**

HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICE PLAN: 2011 - 2012

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the Health & Safety Service Plan for 2011/2012 which sets out the Council's functions for regulating health and safety in businesses for the forthcoming year, and includes a revised health and safety enforcement policy. A draft copy of the Plan is available in the Members' Room, on the Council's website, or available on request.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 places a duty on the Council to make adequate arrangements for enforcement of health and safety. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), requires the Council to produce an annual Health and Safety Service Plan. Responsibility for Health and Safety at Work enforcement lies with the HSE and Local Authorities (LAs). Councils are generally responsible for enforcement at premises in which non-industrial activities are undertaken (eg retail premises, warehouses, offices etc) whilst HSE is responsible for industrial activities.
- 2.2 Towards the end of 2005, national strategic direction was set for the health and safety system in Great Britain, which has been subsequently strengthened in 2009. As a result, the HSE and the Council have been working together and, in particular, targeting limited resources to the greatest local risks as the way to securing health, welfare and economic benefits for the community.
- 2.3 The projects listed in the service plan are those where the Council currently has a responsibility or because the projects will deliver greater outcomes by close collaboration and partnership working.
- 2.4 These projects involve a mixture of interventions such as stakeholder partnership, motivating senior managers, employee involvement, education/awareness campaigns, recognising good performance, as well as targeted inspections. This new approach meets many of the objectives of the better regulation agenda.

3 PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 3.1 Over the year there have been rapid developments aimed at applying the Regulators' Compliance Code and establishing closer partnership working arrangements with the HSE. A number of joint initiatives have been shared to respond to the Local Better Regulation Office guidance on better regulation, such as the "Safety and Health Advice Days" (SHADs) for workers in the warehousing, entertainment and beauty sectors.

3.2 To overcome poor synchronisation of planning cycles between HSE and LAs, which has been a problem in the past, better integration of work programmes now takes place.

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2011/2012

4.1 In formulating the service plan for 2011/2012 the Council has again committed to participating in a number of national projects aimed at meeting Public Service Agreement targets for health and safety in addition to undertaking a programme of targeted inspections and other interventions, which take account of the better regulation principles. They enable the targeting of proactive health and safety regulatory resources to contribute to the national targets and local corporate objectives.

4.2 Health and safety regulation has a key role to play in supporting local economic prosperity and community wellbeing. It aims to ensure that well run, legally compliance businesses are supported and that consumers, workers and the environment are protected.

5 RECOMMENDED that

- (1) Scrutiny Committee – Community support the Health & Safety Service Plan 2011/12;
- (2) Executive approves:
 - (a) the Health and Safety Service Plan 2011/12, which includes the Health and Safety Enforcement Policy; and
 - (b) the Head of Environmental Health Services being granted delegated authority to make changes to the Service Plan in light of centrally issued guidance and/or to meet operational needs.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:PA/LP/ Committee/611SCC3 v2
4.5.11

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report: