

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**  
**SCRUTINY RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**18 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK UPDATE**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Council with a quarterly update on strategic health and safety at work matters and help ensure that Members are aware of key health and safety considerations.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This quarterly update forms part of the Corporate Health and Safety Management System and is designed to provide Elected Members with an all-round briefing on the 'state of play' in corporate health and safety.
- 2.2 The quarterly update may also assist and advise Members of priority remedial actions needed to control risks arising from workplace hazards, and the implications of such mitigations in terms of resources and change management.
- 2.3 More detailed information on the items raised can be obtained from Robert Norley, Assistant Director Environment and Paul Barton, Principal Health and Safety Officer.

**3. KEY HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS**

- 3.1 The following matters of importance are highlighted from Appendix 1:
- the Council have procured 'AssessNET' a new modular safety management system, and training of key employees has commenced;
  - in response to a fatal accident the risk assessment of all Council footpaths and associated assets has commenced – this is a long-term task with resource implications;
  - the Council's Asbestos Policy has been refreshed to take account of changes in regulations (consider at this committee);
  - the second meeting of the new multi-agency Exeter Safety Advisory Group has now taken place, and appears to be working well in evaluating major events planned in Exeter (e.g. Great West Run, Tour of Britain, Unexpected Festival).

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are resource implications in terms of the footpaths assessment that will be subject to a further report.

**5. RECOMMENDED**

- 1) That Members of Scrutiny Resources read the quarterly update in Appendix 1.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT

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

None

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Corporate Health and Safety - September 2013**

The following update provides a 'state of play' in respect of corporate health and safety management.

#### **Safety incident reporting**

There have been 8 accidents and incidents since the last Scrutiny Resources meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Only one of these were reportable to HSE under RIDDOR 1995, but responsibility for this remained with the employment agency.

#### **Ongoing Prevention of Slip, Trip and Fall Accidents**

Major resurfacing of Leighton Terrace Car park is to proceed before Winter on safety grounds. This means the car park will not have to be closed for a prolonged period during winter weather. The work itself is estimated at two to three weeks duration.

#### **Noise at Work Regulations**

Noise risk assessment reviews are taking place in Cleansing and Waste in relation to the proximity of employees to the machinery and vehicles that are used. These will be completed by the end of March 2014.

#### **Health and Safety Systems Management Software**

Training on the new health and safety management modular system called 'AssessNET' has commenced. Risk Assessment of substances hazardous to health is the first module to be 'rolled out' to council service managers.

#### **Footpaths and Associated Assets – follow up to Notice of Contravention**

Actions pertaining to the risk assessment and inspection of all footpaths and associated assets is underway. One action is to GIS map and simultaneously risk rate assets. A scoping exercise is underway and a business case will be submitted to SMT in Autumn.

#### **Needle stick injury risk management**

In the light of new regulations, a review of health risk management in respect of handling of sharps is being undertaken. The current risk control measures remain suitable and sufficient, although a recommendation has been made for all relevant employees to be reminded by their line managers of the policy. Staff choosing to undergo vaccination for Hepatitis B will no longer have to claim reimbursement, but will only need to present a purchase order to their surgery, thus avoiding the need for the employee to pay 'up-front'. Vaccinations are in the region of £100 and this is significant amount from the monthly salary of lower waged workers.

#### **Health and Safety Training**

The training policy has been redrafted and will go out for consultation shortly. The draft sets out a more strategic corporate approach to health and safety training as well as seeking cost savings.

#### **Asbestos Management in Council Buildings**

The policy has been revised in response to new regulations that came into force last year. As previously the policy is in two halves; the main overall policy for non-housing properties and a separate section for our housing properties.

**Public safety at City Events**

A new Exeter Safety Advisory Group (SAG) has been formed. The aim is to strengthen existing links between key partner agencies for safe delivery of events in the city. Robert Norley, AD Environment chairs. Amongst other things, the Group is currently working on 'Unexpected', Tour of Britain and the Great West Run. The SAG will also be instrumental in assisting with safety planning for the Rugby World Cup events in Exeter.

**Annual Members' Briefing and Annual South West Local Authority Health and Safety Forum**

The annual Members Briefing takes place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre, this will be an engaging presentation on the Council's internal and external involvement with health and safety, with photographic and practical examples.

N.B. Further details and information on these and other Corporate Health and Safety matters are available from Paul Barton Principal Health and Safety Officer, extension 5456.

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