

Committee:	Safety Committee	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2009	Category	
Subject:	General Health and Safety Report	Status	Open
Report by:	Health and Safety Officer		
Other Officers involved:			
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	People and Performance		

## RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

**Environment** – Promoting and enhancing a clean and sustainable environment. Enhancing our management of asbestos risk

**Strategic Organisational Development:** - continually improving our organisation. By reducing the consequences of accidents, incidents, and dangerous occurrences and thereby reduce likelihood of enforcement action, legal action or compensation claim.

**Customer Focussed Services:** - providing excellent customer focussed services. By providing services that reduce the consequences of an accident, incident, illness or dangerous occurrence.

## TARGETS

The report does not contribute to any specific targets in the corporate Plan.

## VALUE FOR MONEY

The proposals deliver value for money by reducing the likelihood of loss through accident, service interruption and personal injury/damage claim.

## **THE REPORT**

### **Legislation**

**Health and Safety (Offences) Act 2008** – This Comes into force on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2009.

The Act amends section 33 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and raises the maximum penalties available to the courts for certain health and safety offences.

The new law means bigger fines for health and safety crimes and prison as an option for more health and safety offenders who have committed serious offences. Health and safety penalties are now comparable to those for environmental and food law offences.

The Act:

increases the maximum fine for the lower courts from £5,000 to £20,000 for most health and safety offences

introduces unlimited fines for higher courts

makes imprisonment an option for more offences in the lower and higher courts

makes certain offences that can currently be tried only in the lower courts triable in either the lower or higher courts. This opens up the potential for larger penalties

Please see the more detailed briefing attached as Appendix 1

The briefing note has been sent to all Heads of Service.

### **Policy issues**

#### **Asbestos**

Draft revised Control of Asbestos at Work Policy and Guidance has been sent to those who will operate it for specialist input and will go to Heads of Service Group by the time of the Safety Committee Meeting.

This brings our policy into line with the requirements of the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (2006), reflects organisational and personnel changes within Housing and Regeneration Service areas and the use of an improved asbestos surveying and information storage system.

This will come to the next Safety Committee, if approved.

## Stress Management

The Draft Stress Management Policy and Guidance will go to Heads of Service Group then will come to the next Safety Committee, if approved.

## **Audits**

Corporate Health and Safety Management has been audited by the joint audit unit. Their report is only in draft form at the time of this report being written, and states that performance is satisfactory.

Recommendations and remedial actions will be reported to the next Safety Committee when finalised.

Health and Safety at a Service area level is being audited by the Health and safety officer.

Pleasley Vale Industrial Park is the first area to be audited, which is currently underway. Housing Maintenance and Grounds Maintenance will be the next areas to be examined.

The results for the first audit will be reported to the next Safety Committee.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Aid**

The Health and Safety Officer has undertaken an assessment of Health and safety Needs across the Authority.

The area highlighted as needing increased provision is mobile workers, particularly waste operations.

Increasing provision for waste collection crews is being explored.

## **Fire Risk Assessments**

Fire risk assessments are currently being reviewed by the original assessors, this will enable us to compare like with like.

As of 12/01/09 the following reports have been received by BDC:

South Normanton Contact Centre  
South Normanton Depot  
Clowne Contact Centre  
Ashbourne Court Group Dwelling  
Kissingate Leisure centre (before the fire)

The Kissingate report did not highlight any significant issues, particularly in the area where the fire occurred.

The Estates and Property Services Manager will provide a report on progress towards reassessing all our buildings and resolving issues identified.

### **Safety Inspections**

The following inspections have been received / undertaken since the Last Safety Committee:

Sherwood Lodge (Estates and property Services)  
Contact Centres (CSPD)  
Democratic Services  
Human Resources and Payroll

There are no major outstanding items

The following Service Areas are making arrangements to carry out inspections:

Legal Services  
Revenues and Benefits  
ITC

All Services Areas were reminded on 9<sup>th</sup> of December and will be reminded again of the due dates for their inspections.

### **Training**

The following training has been put in the training plan for the forthcoming year April to March

Risk assessment (24)  
Coshh awareness (60)  
Hand arm Vibration awareness (40)  
Noise at Work awareness (40)  
Manual Handling for Waste Operatives (40)  
Fire warden training (12)  
Working at Heights (40)  
Managing Safely (IOSH Training for Managers (12))

Additionally

New Employee Induction  
Manual Handling (general)  
Display Screen Equipment Awareness  
Cleaners / Caretakers Training  
Members Safety Awareness Training

Will be provided on request subject to demand

## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

The contents of the report.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial : None

Legal : Compliance with legislation

Human Resources : None

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the report be received.**

ATTACHMENTS: Appendix 1 & 2