

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet

8 June 2006

**AUTHOR:** Housing and Environmental Services Director

---

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2006-2007

#### Purpose

1. To seek the Cabinet's approval and recommendation to Council of a Health & Safety Service Plan for 2006/07.

#### Effect on Corporate Objectives

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The plan refers to many ways in which the health & safety service works towards this objective ie. Access to services through the Contact Centre and quality benchmarking.
Village Life	The plan supports the development and maintenance of small business through appropriate measured enforcement, advice and education.
Sustainability	The service has at its heart the protection of public health.
Partnership	The service involves liaison and partnership working with a variety of businesses, organisations and agencies.

#### Background

3. Health & Safety aspects of the Department's work have been included within the 2006/07 Environmental Health Service Plan however, the Health & Safety Executive in their Section 18 Requirements on the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 require the production of a specific Service Plan to a common format. The Health & Safety Service Plan attached as an **Appendix** to this report meets this requirement. Appendices to the Health & Safety Service Plan are available in the Chief Environmental Health Officer's office.

#### Considerations

4. The Health & Safety Executive has stated the following in their Section 18 guidance:

Produce an annual Health & Safety Plan, which is agreed by members and contributes to the Health & Safety Commission priorities.

Guidelines were then given as to the details and expected content of the Health & Safety Service Plan. The Service Plan simply identifies in one single document the work and structure of the Department relating to health & safety.

#### Financial Implications

5. Within existing resources.

#### Legal Implications

6. None.

### **Staffing Implications**

7. Referred to in the body of the report.

### **Risk Management Implications**

8. Failure to adhere to the work plan could result in adverse media comment. The Health & Safety Executive could name and shame the Local Authority nationally. In extreme circumstances if we fail to carry out this work the HSE may take over our inspection and enforcement duties and charge the Local Authority for the work.

### **9. Equal Opportunities Implications**

In line with general and specific duties under the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Race relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Council operates a Race Equality Scheme (RES) in order to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote race equality and good race relations. The Scheme gives priority to actions relating to Travellers as the biggest ethnic minority in the district (around 1.7% of the district's population). Statistics from the 2001 Census also show that, whilst only 2.9% of the district's population is made up of black and minority ethnic groups, there are greater ethnic minority communities in three wards in particular. These are the villages of Girton, Milton and Teversham where the black and minority ethnic groups are two or three times as much.

10. An assessment of SCDC services in terms of their relevance to the statutory duty to promote race equality, which is featured in the Race Equality Scheme, rates health and safety issues as of 'medium relevance'.

### **Consultations**

11. None.

### **Conclusions/Summary**

12. This service plan meets the HSE requirements under relevant legislation and guidance.

### **Recommendations**

13. That Cabinet recommends Council to approve the Health & Safety Service Plan 2006/07, attached to this report.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- a. Section 18 on Local Authority Health & Safety Enforcement (copy available from the Chief Environmental Health Officer)
- b. Local Authority Circular 67/1 (rev 3) (copy available from the Chief Environmental Health Officer)

**Contact Officer:** Dale Robinson – Chief Environmental Health Officer  
Telephone: (01954) 713229  
Geoff Keerie – Principal Environmental Health Officer  
Telephone: (01954) 713133