

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder 28th July 2009
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director / Corporate Manager (Health and Environmental Services) / Principal Environmental Health Officer

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH—HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN

Purpose

1. To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval of a Health and Safety Service Plan for 2009-10.
2. This is a key decision because:
 - it is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in all wards of the District.
 - it is of such significance to a locality, the Council or the services which it provides that the decision-taker is of the opinion that it should be treated as a key decision.

and it was published in the Forward Plan.

Background

3. Health and Safety aspects of the Services work have been included within the 2009-10 Health and Environmental Services Service Plan. However, as part of its requirements under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Health and Safety Executive demands the production of a specific service plan to a common format. The Health and Safety Service Plan attached as **Appendix 1** to this report meets this requirement.

Considerations

4. The Health and Safety Executive has stated the following in its Section 18 guidance:
 - (a) Produce an annual Health and Safety Plan, which is agreed by members and contributes to the Health and Safety Executive priorities.
5. Guidelines were then given as to the details and expected content of the Health and Safety Service Plan. The service plan simply identifies in one single document the work and structure of the service relating to health and safety.

Options

6. The Portfolio Holder can accept, reject or amend the proposed plan. However, failure to adopt the plan would leave the service and the Council open to criticism by the Health and Safety Executive if they chose to conduct an audit.

Implications

7.

Financial	Within existing resources
Legal	None

Staffing	Referred to within the body of the Plan
Risk Management	Failure to adhere to the Plan could result in adverse media comment. The Health and Safety Executive could name and shame the Local Authority nationally. In extreme circumstances if SCDC fails to carry out this work the HSE may take over our inspection and enforcement duties and charge the Local Authority for the work.
Equal Opportunities	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. Statistics from the 2001 census also shows 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. 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

8. None

Effect on Strategic Aims

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| Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all. |
| The plan refers to many ways in which the health and safety service works towards this aim, i.e. Access to services through the Contact Centre and quality benchmarking. |
| Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all. |
| Environmental, work place and leisure pursuit safety is the overall thrust of this work plan. |
| Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all. |
| The plan supports the development and maintenance of small and medium sized enterprises through appropriate measured enforcement, advice and education. It is concerned with the maintenance of economic prosperity in the district. |

Conclusions / Summary

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

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder approves the Health and Safety Service Plan 2009/10, which is 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 and Safety Enforcement (Copy available from the Corporate Manager Health and Environmental Services)
- b. Local Authority Circular 67/1 (Revision 3) (Copy available from Corporate Manager Health and Environmental Services)

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