

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services)

17 May 2011

HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICE PLAN

Purpose

1. To obtain Portfolio Holder approval of the Health & Safety Service Plan for 2011-12.
2. This is a key decision because
 - It is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of the District comprising of all wardsand it was first published in the February 2011 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. That the Portfolio Holder approves and adopts the Health & Safety Service Plan for 2011-12 attached to this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. A specific Health & Safety Service Plan is required as South Cambridgeshire District Council is a statutory regulator of health & safety at work.
5. Section 18 (of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974) – Standard of enforcement outlines that an enforcing authority should publish its workplan for the coming work year, and to reflect upon the previous year's performance.

Background

6. Every EA must set out its priorities and plan of interventions for the current year.

These should take into account:

- priorities of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- National & regional priorities, targets and plans
- Locally derived objectives
- Relevant guidance and policies.

7. South Cambridgeshire District Council's health and safety regulators are required by law to make adequate arrangements for enforcement in line with the Section 18 Standard issued under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

The purpose of having adequate arrangements in place is:

- to make efficient use of the available resources in support of delivering health and safety objectives and wider community targets
- to be recognised as an effective and proportionate regulator.

Considerations

8. The Service Plan forms part of the Section 18: Standard of Enforcement and is a required aspect of this standard to achieve compliance.
9. The Service Plan uses the principles of proportionality, transparency, consistency and targeting to determine the Service's inspection and intervention workload.

Options

10. The Portfolio Holder has the option to approve the Health & Safety Service Plan as attached in full or suggest amendments to the policy prior to approval.

Implications

11.	Financial	Within existing capacity
	Legal	Failure to produce a Health & Safety Service Plan may lead to SCDC being non-compliant with Section 18 of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974; for which the authority can receive criticism.
	Staffing	Within existing capacity
	Risk Management	As Legal
	Equality and Diversity	The Service Plan outlines those cases in which inspection and interventions are expected. It seeks to protect the more vulnerable members of the community and take a consistent and transparent approach to enforcement activity within the district.
	Equality Impact Assessment completed	No Assessment to be submitted for moderation.
	Climate Change	None

Consultations

12. Staff within the Food & Health & Safety Team have been consulted upon this year's Service Plan.

Effect on Strategic Aims

13. ***We are committed to assisting provision for local jobs for you and your family***

The Service Plan is relevant to all commercial premises regulated by SCDC. Sensible regulation of health & safety will enable businesses to develop; creating expansion and diversification within the District.

Conclusions / Summary

14. Section 18: Standard on Enforcement requires a specific Health & Safety Service Plan for the organisation of the regulation of health & safety.

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

Section 18 toolkit via www.hse.gov.uk/section18

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