

CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE – 23RD OCTOBER 2003

SUBJECT: SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of the response to the concerns expressed by a Trade Union Safety Representative, at the last meeting.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The representative referred to incidents where risk assessments had not been made and where, in his opinion, Building Maintenance staff had been put at risk.
- 2.2 Particular reference was made to instances where ladders had been used instead of scaffolding.
- 2.3 The Building Maintenance Working Group acknowledged that there has been a shortfall in the number and quality of risk assessments covering their work, which could affect the safety of some staff in given work situations.
- 2.4 In recent months, a great deal of work has been carried out within Building Maintenance, with assistance from the Corporate Safety Unit, to address this anomaly.
- 2.5 The result of this work, expected in the very near future, will effectively minimise the risks to staff.
- 2.6 With respect of the example of ladders being used in preference to scaffolding, discussions between the Head of Building Maintenance and the Senior Estimator, aimed at reducing the use of ladders, are progressing.

Author: Phil Griffiths, Senior Corporate Safety Officer Ext. 4072
Consultees: Steve Delahaye, Chief Trading Standards Officer Ext. 5316
Mike Workman, Commercial Services Manager Ext. 5221
Roger Webb, Director of the Environment Ext. 5311
Cabinet Member Cllr. K. Viney
Cllr P. Bevan, Chairman Corporate Safety Committee
Brian Hamilton, Head of Building Maintenance