

CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE – 22ND JANUARY 2004

SUBJECT: THE MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS

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 progress in the surveying and monitoring of asbestos in Council operated buildings, and the introduction of an asbestos management system.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The surveys of Council owned and operated buildings are progressing satisfactorily. Currently, there are fewer than 95 premises awaiting surveys. Property Division are confident that every survey will be completed by the end of March 2004, seven weeks before the Regulations, which require an asbestos management system to be in place, come into force.

2.2 The cost of removal of Category A asbestos has, in a few cases, required further funding to facilitate removal. Whilst funding has been identified for the removal of asbestos in premises surveyed earlier in the year, in two more recently surveyed buildings it has been necessary to prohibit access to the affected areas until funding can be found.

2.3 The monitoring of asbestos left in place will remain an obligation for years to come. A contract for this work is being progressed, however, since the estimated cost of managing asbestos exceeds the annual allocation of £50,000 by a considerable amount, Corporate Management Team are to be asked to identify further funding to cover monitoring and the updating of records.

2.4 In addition, the Corporate Safety Unit, has distributed advice to Building Managers reminding them of their obligations under the Regulations and informing them of the measures to be taken during remedial or improvement work.

- i) At premises which have been surveyed and a report prepared and,
- ii) At premises awaiting survey.

2.5 Training for over one hundred and fifty building managers, property staff and headmasters on the management of asbestos is currently taking place.

2.6 A draft corporate policy on the management of asbestos is currently being produced and will be presented to the next meeting of this committee.

3. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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