

CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE – 22ND JANUARY 2004

SUBJECT: REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY WITHIN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide brief details to the Corporate Safety Committee on the internal review of health and safety management within the Authority.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the Best Value Review of Personnel Services it was agreed that a review of the provision of Health and Safety throughout the Authority would be undertaken. Specifically it was “to conduct a review of health and safety management and activity to ensure that the systems and approaches are co-ordinated and cost effective”.

3. THE REVIEW

- 3.1 The Terms of reference were agreed, and a Review Panel established to consider the current situation and make recommendations to the Corporate Management Team. The Panel reviewed the role, function and legal responsibilities of the Authority in relation to health and safety. It examined current policies and procedures, used benchmarking data and held consultative meetings with trade union representatives and health and safety liaison officers, existing providers and a cross section of managers
- 3.2 The Review Panel concluded that the way that the Authority organises health and safety at both Corporate and Directorate level was in need of revitalisation, and that the Council should seek to provide a service that goes beyond the basic requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act and be seen as an exemplar in local government.
- 3.3 The Review Panel also concluded that any new structure should ensure:-
- Senior level commitment to health and safety within the organisation;
 - Knowledge of legal duties for Members and Officers;
 - Employee awareness of the importance of health and safety;
 - Broad employee access to health and safety information;
 - Improved employee participation;
 - An independent health and safety audit programme;
 - Effective incident reporting to reduce accidents;
 - Professional safety competence; and
 - Measurement of the performance of health and safety throughout the organisation.
- 3.4 The Panel also felt that the Corporate Safety Committee should be re-named the Corporate Health and Safety Committee, and its terms of reference and constitutional position be reviewed.
- 3.5 It was recognised that to deliver on these ambitious aims the Council would need to invest increased resources into the health and safety function, and that an action plan to revitalise and re-invigorate health and safety within the Council should be implemented.

3.4 The final report of the Review Panel has recently been presented to the Corporate Management Team for their consideration.

4. Members are asked to note this report.

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Cabinet Member Cllr. K. Viney

Cllr. P. Bevan, Chairman Corporate Safety Committee