

CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE – 22ND JANUARY 2004

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 current situation with respect to the making of risk assessments and use of ladders instead of scaffolding by Building Maintenance staff.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the last meeting, a trade union safety representative expressed concern about increases in risk to members of Building Services staff arising out of a lack of risk assessments and the selection of ladders in preference to scaffolding.
- 2.2 In order to address these concerns, the Building Maintenance Health and Safety Policy, and risk assessments relating to the work of the service, have recently been reviewed and are due to be issued on 1st February, 2004.
- 2.3 Further, Area Managers have been instructed that they must police the risk assessment process, within their spheres of operation, on a daily basis.
- 2.4 The results of the site inspections, prior to the commencement of jobs, determine the safe system of work to be used. The requirement to use scaffolding instead of ladders will be addressed at this time.
- 2.5 The Corporate Safety Unit assists Building Maintenance Managers in their deliberations and, in addition, officers of the Unit are available to advise where doubt exists.
- 2.6 The above measures are likely to improve the number and quality of risk assessments available and result in an increased use of scaffolding, thereby lessening the risks for Building Maintenance staff.

- 3.** The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

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