



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 13TH OCTOBER 2004

SUBJECT: FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS

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 position regarding the undertaking of fire risk assessments across the Authority.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 There is a legal requirement to carry out fire risk assessments at Caerphilly County Borough Council work places.
- 2.2 The requirement to carry out risk assessments is set out in the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 and the Fire Precautions (Workplace) (Amendment) Regulations) 1999. The 1997 regulations required employer to carry out fire risk assessments on workplaces without fire risk assessments and the 1999 amendment extended this requirement to all workplaces.
- 2.3 The proposed Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2004 which is due to come into force in Spring 2005 will remove the need for premises to be fire certificated and will place an increased onus on employer to manager fire safety through assessing and controlling the risks.
- 2.4 South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are now issuing enforcement action against organisations without up-to-date assessments.
- 2.5 The Chief Property Officer is preparing a report for CMT proposing that Property take responsibility for organising fire risk assessments corporately.
- 2.6 Property will then decide how best to carry out the assessments and this could include in-house provision or engaging an external consultant.
- 2.7 Until a decision is taken on the management of fire risk assessments Directorates remain responsible for planning and risk prioritising fire risk assessments and responding to any notices issued by the Fire Service.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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