

## CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 13TH OCTOBER 2004

SUBJECT: KERB LAYING

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 made to comply with the H.S.E. requirement that kerb laying is mechanised wherever possible.

## 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Network Contracting Services, when undertaking "spot repairs", is currently permitted to manually handle kerbs as part of "term maintenance" work. Whenever this method of work is used, a written risk assessment, which concludes that no other method is practicable, must be provided.
- 2.2 At the moment, the risk of back injury has been minimised by the use of "half" kerbs weighing 25 kgs, however, 20 kg kerbs are to be used as soon as they become available. The latter kerbs, which are expected in the next few weeks, are within the weight range considered reasonable by the HSE and will be laid manually, subject to the provision of appropriate assessments.
- 2.3 On all other work, vacuum lifting devices are being used. At present, two machines are being trialled by NCS. It is envisaged that further lifting machines could be taken into use in future.
- 2.4 Information on a web site dedicated to kerb laying, has recently been received. The site contains a technical report from ACO Technologies which recommends appropriate mechanical handling solutions for different contexts of kerb laying. It also suggests the best use of hydraulic and vacuum machines and contrasts purchase and hire costs.
- 2.5 This information has been made available to the Council's contracting arm and to officers responsible for specifying work.
- 2.6 Compliance with the terms of this report will assist greatly in complying with the H & S requirements on the mechanical handling of kerbs.

## 3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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