

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - 4TH JULY 2005

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDITS

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 recent audits carried out by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Corporate Health and Safety Unit commenced auditing in January with an annual target of 200 audits.

2.2 It was decided that audits would be topic specific and would initially concentrate on asbestos management and fire safety. Areas to be audited are agreed in consultation with Directorate Health and Safety Officers.

2.3 The first quarter audits highlighted problems across all Directorates with the way asbestos and fire safety is managed. A meeting was arranged with key officers to discuss the measures needed to improve management of these areas.

2.4 This meeting took place on 11th June and established that the asbestos policy requires a review and a re-launch supported by training and guidance for duty holders including Building Managers and Caretakers.

2.5 The meeting clarified that the current approach to improving fire safety including the issuing of the Fire Safety Policy and the rolling programme of fire risk assessments is correct and will be supplemented by fire safety arrangements and training.

2.6 Both fire safety and asbestos management will be re-audited to ensure that there is a significant improvement in performance.

2.7 The second quarter audits are ongoing and have focused on display screen equipment and risk assessment.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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Councillor Paul Ford, Cabinet Member