



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 11TH JULY 2007

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

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 current initiatives relating to asbestos management.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The HSE have recently sought a commitment from the Authority that its asbestos management arrangements will be reviewed and improved. A copy of the letter sent from the Chief Executive to the HSE is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 The improvements required relate to the development of a formal Asbestos Management Plan for the Authority, which will be available at each premise. The Asbestos Management Plan will detail responsibilities for Asbestos Management and clearly set out the actions necessary prior to working on the fabric of the building and if asbestos containing materials are disturbed. An initial draft of the Asbestos Management Plan has been sent out for consultation and consultation will be sought with the HSE prior to this being rolled out across the Authority.

2.3 The HSE also require arrangements to be developed to manage asbestos in Council Houses. This includes agreeing a % of each council house type to be surveyed (HSE's indication suggest this should be 15-20%), mechanism for recording this information, means for ensuring information on Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) or possible ACM's is passed to employees and contractors carrying out work on council houses.

2.4 The HSE have requested that information on the possible presence of asbestos in council houses is communicated to all council tenants. This will be done through a leaflet to be delivered to all council tenants and will need to be supported by arrangements to deal with any queries and problems.

2.5 The Asbestos Management Policy is currently undergoing further revision to ensure it links into the draft Asbestos Management Plan.

2.6 The HSE requirements complement the ongoing Building Managers training which ensures all Building Managers are aware of their health and safety responsibilities including those relating to asbestos management.

2.7 Front line Asbestos Awareness training is also planned and will be delivered by the Health and Safety Trainer to all relevant employees e.g. plumbers, plasterers, electricians, caretakers. This will be supported by a programme of refresher training.

- 2.8 Work is also in progress to improve arrangement for monitoring and auditing work involving asbestos. This includes introducing a requirement for all asbestos related work to be notified to the Corporate Health and Safety Unit, auditing, checking quality and compliance with method statements and spot checks on work in progress.
- 2.9 It is hoped that all initiatives will contribute in ensuring the Authority has in place clear and effective arrangements for managing asbestos.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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Councillor David Poole, Cabinet Member

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Letter from the Chief Executive dated May 2007