

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 11TH JULY 2007

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 between 1st January and 31st March 2007.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Auditing is part of the remit of the Corporate Health and Safety Unit and is necessary to ensure that the Authority is meeting its obligations under health and safety law. The Corporate Health and Safety Unit have a target of 210 audits for 2006-07.

2.2 Audit topics are risk based and focus on key areas of concern for the Authority or areas of HSE priority. All audit areas and topics are chosen in consultation with Directorate Health and Safety Officers.

2.3 The fourth quarter's audits (January-March) covered a variety of areas including glazing safety, DSE, Risk Assessment, Contractor Management, Manual Handling and New Building Audit. Re-audits were also carried out on previous audits undertaken to ensure items identified in action plans had been progressed.

2.4 As part of the audit programme all Directors have been provided with a quarterly report on audits carried out to date, action plans received by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit, and outstanding action plans.

2.5 Auditing is an essential part of any health and safety management system. Directorate and Corporate Health and Safety Officers will continue to work together to use audits as a tool to identify gaps in health and safety performance, and to improve health and safety standards across the Authority.

2.6 The following number of Audits have been completed by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit during the fourth quarter of 2006-07:

Directorate	Number of Audit's Completed	Number of Action Plans Outstanding from Managers *
Chief Executive's	11	2
Environment	11	0
Social Services	16	0
Education & Leisure	18	0

- 2.8 The audits carried out included 22 re-audits where CHSU audited against the targets and timescales set out in action plans submitted following initial audits of health and safety performance.
- 2.9 The Corporate Health and Safety Unit and Directorate Health and Safety Officers are working closely with Managers to ensure that where health and safety issues are identified, that they are addressed promptly.
- 2.10 It is recognised that Managers are increasingly completing and returning their action plans.
- 2.11 The Corporate Health and Safety Unit will re-audit a percentage of these audits that action has been taken where required. It is planned to increase the number of re-audits carried out to ensure that actions are completed and that this results in improved health and safety standards and practise.
- 2.12 A health and safety audit procedure has been developed and agreed by managers across the authority which the Corporate Health and Safety Unit follow when undertaking such audits. A copy of this procedure is contained within Appendix 1.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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Councillor David Poole, Cabinet Member

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Audit Procedure
Appendix 2 Sample Corporate Health and Safety Unit Audit Report
Appendix 3 Example DMT Report