

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 10TH FEBRUARY 2010

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE PROPOSED VISITS

NOTE BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF NOTE

- 1.1 The purpose of this note is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of intentions that have been made by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regarding working relationships and HSE visits to Local Authorities (LAs).

2. THE ISSUE

- 2.1 At the recent WLGA Corporate Health and Safety forum the HSE Principal Inspector for Services made an announcement regarding the HSE's intentions around how they are going to work with Local Authorities in the future. The main details are summarised below:
- 2.2 The HSE have released a new strategy and pledge. They expect all LAs to be working to the strategy and to have signed up to the pledge as employers.
- 2.3 They HSE have indicated that they will be visiting all Welsh LAs during 2010 (indications are at some point after April) to speak to each Authority's Chief Executive and possibly their Senior Management Team. The request will go directly to the Chief Executive and will not come via the LA's Health and Safety teams. They will expect to see that the Authority is hitting the key points of the HSE strategy and the Chief Executive /Senior Management Team are aware of the Authority's health and safety position and are able to demonstrate legislative compliance. The HSE will then be expecting to visit periodically (possibly every 6 months) to meet with the Chief Executive, with the aim of developing an 'implementation plan' which includes HSE and LA priorities. They will also expect to see evidence of the Chief Executive measuring health and safety e.g. by using Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) etc.
- 2.4 At the meeting the HSE informed us that they would be requiring information to be sent prior to their visit; a formal request for information will be sent to each Authority via the WLGA. It is likely that the following information will be requested:
- An organisational diagram which shows where Health and Safety sits in the organisation and reporting links to the Chief Executive.
 - The Health and Safety Strategic Plan for the next few years, which they expect the Chief Executive to be aware of and they expect to reflect the new HSE strategy.
- 2.5 Work is currently being undertaken to review the corporate health and safety strategy and reports will be sent to CMT in the near future.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the briefing note be noted.

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Consultees: Nigel Barnett, Director of Corporate Services.
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