

## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 10TH FEBRUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: RECENT HSE UPDATES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of recent updates in Health and Safety information, advice and guidance.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 No new health and safety legislation relevant to the Authority is expected to come into force on 6th April 2010.

- 2.2 The HSE are encouraging local authorities in Wales to sign a pledge to:

- Agree to play a part in reducing the numbers of work-related deaths, injuries and ill-health in Great Britain.
- Put health and safety at the heart of what they do and to take a common sense approach to health and safety.
- Commit to debunking myths around health and safety that trivialise the impact of injuries, ill health and deaths on individuals and their families.
- Recognise the importance of health and safety in difficult economic times and the dangers of complacency.
- Work with the HSE and its partners to '*Be Part of the Solution*' in reducing work related deaths, injuries and ill health in line with the HSE's Strategy document.

The 'pledge' is a way for organisations to show their support for HSE's new strategy which sees strong leadership and a common-sense, practical approach to health and safety as a way to improve performance in this area and bring about real business benefits, and was recently signed by former First Minister for Wales, Rhodri Morgan, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Further information on the HSE pledge is available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/pledge.htm>

- 2.3 Inspections undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have shown that a number of local authorities are not fully aware of their legal responsibilities as clients for waste services – whether service delivery is conducted in-house or contracted out.

New online guidance has therefore been launched by the HSE addressing the responsibilities that local authorities have as a client when letting and managing contracts, and includes case studies to show that a number of local authorities are already working along these lines.

A HSE inspection initiative will be taking place later in 2010 to ensure that local authorities are aware of and complying with their responsibilities. CCBC have been asked to support a HSE Seminar planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> February by providing a speaker to discuss issues arising from management of waste services, Officers are currently in discussion with the WLGA to try and assist.

Further information is available at: [www.hse.gov.uk/waste](http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste)

- 2.4 The HSE have recently published a series of information sheets regarding workplace transport site safety. Collectively these cover a wide range of topics, including pedestrian and vehicle segregation, car parking, reversing vehicles, signage and road markings, speed limits and traffic management systems. Each sheet covers a specific topic, each offering practical advice on common hazards and practical solutions to minimise associated risks.

The information sheets may be viewed and downloaded from the HSE's website: [www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/publications.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/publications.htm)

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

Author: Andrew Wigley, Health and Safety Officer.  
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Gareth Hardacre, Head of People Management and Development  
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