

**CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE –
23RD MAY 2011**

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS SURVEYING TEAM PROPOSALS

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update regarding proposals to set up an internal asbestos surveying team.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Asbestos Management Surveys are a legal requirement to ensure that Building Managers, Contractors and others carrying out work on the fabric of the building have information on the potential presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM's) in order to control the risk.
- 2.2 CCBC commenced a programme of asbestos surveys in 2002 however due to quality issues with the contractors used there is a current need to resurvey all CCBC non-domestic premises.
- 2.3 Over the last 6 months a number of further issues have been identified with the new companies being used to undertake asbestos surveys on behalf of the authority. Issues have included poor customer service, considerable time delay in receiving the management surveys and quality issues such as ACM's being missed or shown in the incorrect location on the site plans.
- 2.4 These issues have resulted in a review of how we manage asbestos and consideration of whether asbestos management surveys could be better provided and managed as an in-house service.
- 2.5 It is proposed that an internal asbestos surveying team is set up to include initially 2 qualified and experienced Asbestos Officers to undertake the surveying function and assist with managing the asbestos risk within the Authority. One Officer would be the existing Corporate Asbestos Officer (currently a fixed term contract). The team will be supported by a Systems Support Officer who will input asbestos survey information onto the RAMIS system, produce asbestos management surveys for sites, update asbestos surveys following abatement works being completed, highlight remedial works and assist with the management of asbestos training etc.
- 2.6 The Asbestos Team would initially be responsible for carrying out new asbestos management surveys on all non-domestic CCBC premises, however longer term they will also carry out refurbishment and demolition surveys.
- 2.7 It is expected that an internal team would deliver considerable benefits including a reduction in the quality issues of asbestos surveys, improved turn-around time between the initial visit to carry out the Asbestos Management Survey and provision of the survey to site.

- 2.8 Further benefits of an internal team include the ability to action minor asbestos risks immediately e.g. taping up, limiting access, minor decontamination, therefore reducing the risks. Ability of the Asbestos Officers to utilise their knowledge of the use of the CCBC premises to specify appropriate remedial actions and ability to input into procuring tenders for asbestos removal works, investigate asbestos related incidents and provide advice and support to the Health and Safety Division and Building Managers on all aspects of asbestos management.
- 2.9 As the systems become established and new management surveys on CCBC premises are completed there is the possibility of selling asbestos surveying and advisory services to neighbouring councils. Asbestos training is already provided to a neighbouring council and the arrangement works well. This links into the WAG objective for neighbouring councils to share expertise and services.
- 2.10 It is anticipated that the new arrangement will allow the delivery of a more robust and holistic asbestos management system across the Authority.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be discussed.

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Consultees: Donna Jones, Health and Safety Manager
Nigel Barnett, Deputy Chief Executive
Gareth Hardacre, Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development
Councillor Allan Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Policy and Governance