

## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 15TH AUGUST 2011**

**SUBJECT: ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT - ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IN-HOUSE  
ASBESTOS TEAM**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Health and Safety Committee of recent developments in asbestos management.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Following considerable difficulties with asbestos surveying including quality issues with historic and recent asbestos survey and issues with the accuracy of refurbishment and demolition surveys, a decision was made to set up an Asbestos Team and to carry out future asbestos management surveys in-house.
- 2.2 The Asbestos team will comprise of 3 Asbestos Officers and a System Support Officer who will play an essential part in the successful future management of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's).
- 2.3 Initially the Asbestos Officers will concentrate on carrying out new Asbestos Management Surveys (on a risk prioritised basis) and responding to requests for mini-management surveys. The Asbestos Officers are also best placed to use their knowledge of premises and the use of premises to specify appropriate remedial actions following surveying. Longer term it is anticipated that refurbishment/demolition surveys will also be able to be carried out in house.
- 2.4 The Officers will adopt a holistic approach to asbestos surveying and managing the risk and as part of their surveying role will immediately action any minor asbestos risk e.g. taping up, limiting access, minor decontamination, therefore reducing the risks and costs associated with abatement works.
- 2.5 The role of the team will be much wider than surveying; they will act as the central point for any asbestos related queries, investigations and advice. They will also play an active part on advising on procuring tenders for asbestos removal works and minor work on ACM's, monitoring the quality of contractors work on ACM's and manage and monitor the abatement work programme following asbestos management surveys.
- 2.6 As the service becomes 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.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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Consultees: Nigel Barnet, Deputy Chief Executive

Councillor James Fussell, Cabinet Member for Human Resources

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