

## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 27TH FEBRUARY 2012**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON HSE INVOLVEMENT**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

- 1.1 The following report is provided as a formal update on Health and Safety Executive Involvement with the Authority.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Health and Safety Executive have completed their formal inspection programme for the Authority and the outcomes have been very positive for both Hand Arm Vibration legal compliance and Waste Industry Safety and Health Inspection. The HSE have recommended a number of Councils to view arrangements in place in Caerphilly for both issues, and a number of visits by neighbouring Authorities have already taken place.
- 2.2 From 1st April 2012 the HSE will be implementing a charge scheme for intervention with organisations, where the HSE are undertaking investigations in cases of reportable accidents/ill health, complaints from employee's members of the public etc. If during the course of the investigation the HSE inspector discovers a material breach of H&S Legislation, an hourly charge of £130 will apply from then on.

### **3. REPORT**

#### **Fochriw Primary (Asbestos Incident) – Two Improvement Notices**

- 3.1 At the time of drafting, the H&S Division are preparing to provide a presentation to the HSE on 20th February to close out two Improvement notices issued following the incident at Fochriw Primary School in 2010.
- 3.2 The presentation will centre on the recently completed RAMIS Asbestos Management Interface, which has taken approximately 6 months to develop. The system is unique and provides a holistic asbestos management system, the use of which will enable the Authority to maintain a live electronic asbestos register, which will be available to building managers/headteachers, technical officers and contractors.

#### **Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) Inspection**

- 3.3 Although we have successfully closed out the HAVS Inspection, the Authority is reviewing the HAVS Health Surveillance Programme, currently provided by an external contractor. Improvements are planned to Health Surveillance via. our in-house Occupational Health Unit to ensure that arrangements are robust and integrated with our in-house Service.

## **Suspension of Asbestos Surveying Contractor**

- 3.4 The Authority has suspended RSK Group Ltd. from any supplier lists in the Authority due to the poor performance of the company in relation to asbestos surveys. A report on the work provided by RSK over the last 12 months was submitted to Technical Panel, who were in full agreement to recommend suspension, the action was agreed by the Chief Executive on 2nd February.
- 3.5 Legal Services are in contact with RSK with regards to recovering costs and the suspension has been reported to the HSE. As this contractor was taken from the WPC framework, Swansea Council, lead Council for the framework have been informed and advised to suspend RSK from the framework.

## **Asbestos Incident - Housing**

- 3.6 An historic asbestos incident involving a gas installation contractor has recently been discovered in Housing. The incident is currently under investigation By Health and Safety. The HSE have been advised and will be undertaking an investigation of the circumstances of the incident. Further information will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

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