



## **CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - 11TH JULY 2016**

**SUBJECT: CONTROL OF HAND ARM VIBRATION EXPOSURE AT WORK POLICY**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

- 1.1 The following report is to inform Elected Members, Union Representatives and Officers of the Control of Hand Arm Vibration at Work Exposure Policy and corporate management arrangements.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations came into force in 2005 and places a duty on employers to manage the risks of exposure to vibration.
- 2.2 Hand arm vibration is vibration transmitted from work processes into operatives hands and arms. It can be caused by operating hand-held power tools such as road breakers, disc cutters and hand guided equipment such as lawn mowers.
- 2.3 Regular and frequent exposure to high levels of vibration can lead to potentially permanent and debilitating injuries to the hands and arms, collectively known as hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS), such as vibration white finger and carpal tunnel syndrome.

### **3. REPORT**

- 3.1 The introduction of this policy enforces the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations and requires relevant service areas to carry out a risk assessment to determine the amount of vibration an employee is being exposed to, and to put in place the necessary measures to prevent or adequately control the exposure.
- 3.2 The policy sets out an exposure action value (EAV) and a daily exposure limit value (ELV). The exposure action value is a daily amount of vibration exposure above which employers are required to take action to control exposure. The daily exposure limit value is the maximum amount of vibration an employee may be exposed to on any single day.
- 3.3 The policy requires that health surveillance is provided to employees who are likely to be exposed above the exposure action value.
- 3.4 The policy also requires that suitable information is provided to employees on the health risks associated with regular and frequent exposure to high levels of vibration, instruction is provided on how to operate the equipment and training is provided on the controls in place to reduce and management vibration exposure.

3.5 To reduce the exposure of vibration to employees, the policy requires Managers to have planned regular maintenance of their vibrating equipment and when purchasing or hiring equipment, low vibration and ergonomic design features are considered.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no Equalities implications for the Council arising from this report.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 All consultations have been reflected in the report.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 Committee members to note the content of the report and approve the policy.

#### **8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 To control exposure of vibration and prevent the associated health effects of exposure to high levels of vibration.

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