

**AGENDA ITEM: 4.1**

Page nos. 4 - 6

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Meeting	Corporate Health and Safety Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee
Date	15 March 2012
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Update Report</b>
Report of	Deputy Chief Executive
Summary	This report updates the Committee on the progress made following the decisions agreed at the meeting held on 6 September 2011

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Officer Contributors	Mike Koumi – Head of Safety, Health and Wellbeing
Status (public or exempt)	Not applicable
Wards affected	Not applicable
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Corporate Health and Safety Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee
Function of	Not applicable
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

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Contact for further information:– Secretary to the Employers' Side – Mike Koumi, Head of Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Tel: 020 8359 7960

## **1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the progress since the last meeting.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1** Corporate Health & Safety JNCC – 6 September 2011

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1** All Initiatives contained within this report contribute to the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan whose objectives are to drive the delivery of the Council's Strategic aims. This report seeks not only to ensure the provision of robust health and safety management systems and compliance with statutory duties but drive business improvement which will in turn contribute to the corporate priority of 'better services with less money'
- 3.2** The Corporate Priority, 'Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities', includes the strategic objective to 'improve health and wellbeing'. This report aims to help meet these goals by setting standards to demonstrate how the Council intends to comply with its duties under The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, whose aim is to ensure not only the protection of all who may be affected by the Councils activities but also the participation of all stakeholders in that aim.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1** This report details how the Council proposes to comply with its general duty of care to employees as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Failure to comply with statutory obligations could lead to prosecution. Any work practices that result in ill health could result in civil action against the Council, financial loss and negative public relations. Good management and leadership are vital in ensuring effective service delivery and high levels of health and safety in the council

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1** The Council's Health, Safety and Welfare Policy aims to ensure the protection of employees and anyone else who may come into contact with our activities and services. This includes people at special risk for example people with disabilities, pregnant women and vulnerable service users. The policy will help to enhance Barnet's reputation as a good place to work and live, and aims to protect employees and service users taking regard of age, disability, ethnicity, faith/belief, gender, and sexual orientation.
- 5.2** The Policy supports the Council in meeting its statutory equality duties and compliance with the range of employment (equality) regulations.

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 6.1** None

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 The Council has various legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and regulations etc made under it. Failure to comply with those duties may lead to prosecutions, claims for breach of statutory duty or claims for civil liabilities. All would involve financial and reputational loss to the council.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 8.1 Constitution – Council Procedure Rules – Section 3 – Panels & Consultative Bodies – Appendix 2 – Constitution of the Corporate Health and Safety Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee.
- 8.2 The Council has established consultative bodies for the purpose of consultation with the trade unions and has determined their Constitutions and Terms of Reference.

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 This report updates the Committee on the progress made following the decisions agreed at the meeting held on 6 September 2011. The meeting scheduled for the 1 December 2011 was declared in-quorate on the Employees Side.
- 9.2 Revision to Section B of the Corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- The Secretary to the Council side made the changes agreed by committee and advertised the revised document on the Councils intranet and through Directorate Safety leadership Officers.
- 9.3 Revised Arrangement
- The Secretary to the Council side made the changes agreed by committee and advertised the revised Working in Partnership arrangement on the Councils intranet and through Directorate Safety leadership Officers.
- 9.4 The Secretary to the Employers' Side has considered the most appropriate place to include volunteers in the council's policy and proposes that a paragraph in the general policy statement stating an overall position on volunteers will be the best option. This will be included in the next revision of the statement.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None.

Legal: PBP  
CFO: JH/MC