



General Functions Committee

28 June 2017

Title	Barnet Council's Annual Health and Safety Report
Report of	Mike Koumi - Head of Safety, Health and Wellbeing
Wards	None
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Barnet Council's Annual Health and Safety Report
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Summary

This report provides information on the Council's health and safety performance for the period 2016/17 and the priorities for the period 2017/18; to ensure continued improvement in performance.

The report is based on performance information and data obtained from the council's accident/incident reporting system, together with independent audit results, corporate training records and ill health data.

Recommendation

- 1. The Committee is requested to note the report and approve the priorities for the period 2017/18 as outlined in section 3 of the Annual Health and Safety Report (Appendix 1).**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report enables the council to monitor its health and safety performance over a defined period and set priorities to achieve continual improvement and address any gaps identified.

- 1.2 The [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#) and associated guidance suggests that regular monitoring of health and safety performance enables organisations to set meaningful targets to effect improvements, reduce work related accidents and ill health and comply with statutory duties.
- 1.3 The review of the previous year's performance as shown in Appendix 1 is split into the four areas that enable us to effectively monitor health and safety; these being:
- Reported work related accident and Ill health
 - Levels of compliance with legislation and council policy
 - Health and safety training delivered
 - Any enforcement action taken against the council
- 1.4 The review shows that the council performs well overall and manages its risks effectively. The areas that require further improvements are in staff exposure to verbal assault and activities that lead to manual handling injuries. The council also needs to continue its drive toward reductions in stress related ill health.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The recommendation seeks agreement of the council's health and safety priorities which aim to address gaps and effect improvement in the Council's health and safety performance.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 N/A

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Delivery units will be required to formulate action plans to implement the priorities for the period 2017/18.
- 4.2 The 2017/18 Annual Council Health and Safety report will highlight performance against these priorities.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The [Corporate Plan](#) includes the strategic objective to "improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study". This report aims to contribute to that objective by setting standards, through the way it manages health and safety, to ensure the council remains exemplars in the community, continues to be a good employer and protects persons who may come into contact with its

activities.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 There are no additional financial implications as a result of the proposed decision. Health and safety management is part of business as usual and is managed within existing budgets.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The council has various legal duties held under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the [Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974](#) and regulations made under it. Failure to comply with those duties may lead to prosecution for breach of statutory duty for the council as well as individual Members and officers. Negligence in relation to health and safety matters can also result in costly personal injury claims in the civil courts.

- 5.4.2 The General Functions Committee's Terms of Reference are outlined in [Section 15a of the Constitution, Appendix A to Responsibility for Functions](#), which states that the Committee is responsible for health and safety matters.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 Failure to effectively manage health and safety risk increases the likelihood of injury and ill health to staff and others during council activities. Significant failure may lead to a catastrophic event that causes multiple injuries or fatalities to staff and the public. Failure to comply with statutory obligations increases the risk of prosecution. Any work practices that result in ill health or injury could result in legal action against the council, financial loss and negative publicity leading to reputational damage.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The council's Corporate Health and Safety 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 particular risk, for example people with disabilities, pregnant women and vulnerable service users. The policy helps 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.
- 5.6.2 The policy also supports the council in meeting its statutory public sector equality duties and compliance with the range of employment (equality) regulations.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 The Annual Health and Safety report will be presented and discussed at the Local Joint Consultation Committees (JCC's).

5.8 Insight

- 5.8.1 N/A

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37>
- 6.2 [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/3242/contents/made)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/3242/contents/made>