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| To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE | | Subject: HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT - PRIORITY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS |
| From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT | | |
| Date: 31 January 2007 | Ref: RS/58/204 | |

1. Purpose of Report/ Introduction

1.1 In October 2003 the Health and Safety Executive/Local Authority Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELA) endorsed the adoption of a topic inspection approach by Local Authorities to meet the Health and Safety Commission's (HSC) "Revitalising Health and Safety" priority programme targets. The priorities set by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have been included in the 'Fit3' Strategic Delivery Programme. This programme is based on analysis of injury and ill health generation across known hazard and sector hotspots in businesses, large and small.

2. Background

2.1 The Fit 3 Programme (Fit for Work, Fit for Life, Fit for Tomorrow') introduced changes to the way in which health and safety legislation is enforced to ensure that all enforcing authorities focus their resources on the areas of highest risk. The Environmental Health Service has adopted this approach to health and safety enforcement, and the programme of work during 2006/07 included a mix of methods to allow more proactive interventions as well as maintaining reactive investigations, and to engage with employers and employees in more user-friendly ways.

2.2 Alternative means of engagement in 2006/07 included

- Locally identified targeted projects e.g. investigating the use of roll cages in detail
- Mailing exercises e.g. highlighting the service provided by Environmental Health to employers and employees,
- Involvement in national campaigns e.g. 'Height Aware' which highlighted the risk of working at height, and 'Bad Hand Day' highlighting the risk of dermatitis in the hairdressing industry
- Improved health and safety pages on the Council's web site
- Work in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive, Healthy Working Lives and North Lanarkshire Leisure under the banner of Work and Wellbeing to produce a DVD highlighting the services available for the improvement of workplace health and safety.

3 Proposals/Considerations

3.1 The new approach of directing inspections towards the areas identified as contributing nationally to the highest rates of accidents and ill health at work is now established in North Lanarkshire Council, and our enforcement staff have been recording information and providing statistics to the HSE on the work undertaken to support the national evaluation of the process. Inspections and other interventions will continue to focus on the aims of the Fit 3 Programme which include reducing days lost to injury, ill health caused by work, and to reduce work related absence.

3.2 The operational plan for Environmental Health in 2007/08 includes specific actions to ensure engagement with local and national employers, to ensure investigation of the most serious accident reports that are received each year, and to respond to local concerns.

3.3 It also ensures that the HSC priority topics of stress, musculoskeletal disorders, slips and trips, transport safety and falls from heights are addressed in the course of inspections. In addition we will contribute to the national campaigns co-ordinated by the Health and Safety Executive. These will include:

- Reinforcing the 'Watch Your Step' message in relation to slips and trips
- 'Moving Goods Safely' campaign
- Dermatitis – raising awareness within catering businesses

4 Sustainability Implications

4.1 The recommendations to the committee are consistent with policy and there are no sustainability implications.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 The recommendations to the committee are consistent with policy and there are no personnel, legal, finance or property implications in this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the committee notes the Health and Safety priority planning arrangements.

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