

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: HEALTH and SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ELECTED MEMBERS	
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 23 July 2009	Ref: JAF/AC	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report is intended to advise the Corporate Services Committee of the publication by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) of a new guide highlighting the health and safety responsibilities of elected members.

**2. Background**

2.1 The IOSH plays a vital role in providing advice to public and private sector employers on effectively managing health and safety issues in the workplace.

2.2 This publication 'Think about health and safety - What elected members of local authorities need to know' highlights the role of local authorities in relation to health and safety and the key role of elected members in securing the health and safety of the Council's workforce and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of their communities. A copy of the publication is available in the Members' Library.

2.3 The IOSH booklet describes some prompts for Councillors to consider about their role in relation to health and safety in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive and as major local employers and major purchasers of goods and services from other organisations. It identifies the significant part Councillors can play in securing the health and safety of the workforce and in ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of entire communities by understanding -

- the broad strategic way in which members affect health and safety management in the local authority;
- the influence of members on health and safety standards for employees and also for contractors and suppliers working for the local authority;
- the impact of a failure to understand risk management processes and an appreciation of the causes of any failures;
- the penalties which could subsequently be incurred if the local authority failed to meet its legal obligations in relation to health and safety;
- the cost of insurance claims within the public sector and the financial impact on the Council and its reputation

**3. Considerations**

3.1 It is considered appropriate that the members should be made aware of this publication and that it would be appropriate, as part of the Members' Training and Development Programme, to include a training session for this purpose, involving a presentation by the Principal Health and Safety Officer, to highlight the role of the elected member.

#### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes this publication and agrees that a training session be included within the Members' Training and Development Programme for this purpose.

*J. C. Young*

**Head of Central Services**

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report should contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.*