

Report to Joint Consultative and Safety Committee

Subject: Corporate Health and Safety Annual Report 2019/20

Date: 23 February 2021

Author: Health, Safety and Emergency Planning Officer

Wards Affected

Borough wide

Purpose

To present the Corporate Health and Safety Annual report 2019/20 that was presented at Cabinet Thursday 12 November 2020.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

THAT:

- 1) For the committee to support the findings of the report and continue to recognise the importance of H&S.**
- 2) The Corporate Health and Safety Annual Report 2019/20 be noted at Appendix 1.**
- 3) To note the formal officer delegations L1 to L4 for Health and Safety functions that were formally agreed at Cabinet 12.11.20, at Appendix 2**
- 4) To note the Risk definitions and assurance ratings, at Appendix 3**

1 Background

- 1.1 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 imposes a number of obligations on employers, employees and others in regards health, safety and welfare in connection with work activities. In relation to the Council's

role as an employer, these are executive functions that fall within the remit of Cabinet. These statutory duties are separate from the Council's role as an enforcement body, which ensures that other employers within the borough comply with their obligation under the Act and other applicable Health and Safety (H&S) legislation. It is important to note that the Health, Safety and Emergency Planning Officer (HSEPO) is not responsible for enforcement of these activities of other employers within the borough where the Council is the responsible enforcement body. Those functions are a non-executive functions falling within the remit of the Environment and Licensing Committee and the Public Protection service area.

- 1.2 Reporting annually on H&S performance is considered good practice by the Health and Safety Executive, the Institute of Directors and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1999 also requires all employers to periodically review their H&S management system.
- 1.3 JCSC members are asked to receive this annual H&S report to inform them of health and safety performance covering the period April 2019 – March 2020.
- 1.4 The Council manages a wide portfolio of services for a Borough of more than 117,900 people. Some of these services involve a potential significant risk of harm to our staff and others that our work activities could affect. To this end, to prevent injury and ill health, the Council's objective is to have a positive health and safety culture, a robust H&S management system and be committed to the principles of sensible risk management and compliance with our legal obligations.
- 1.5 To achieve this the Council has implemented a H&S management system that involves all staff, our partners, others and wider Council work activities. We retain a specialist Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner to maintain this system and train managers and staff to understand and control the risks that arise from our service to the community.
- 1.6 The HSEPO service and H&S Annual Report supports the Council's priorities and assists service areas in achieving the Council's overall vision of Serving People Improving Lives.

The HSEPO service supports the following Gedling Plan objectives:

- High Performing Council: To be a high performing, efficient and effective Council, to maintain a positive and supportive working environment and strong employee morale and improve use of digital technologies
- Healthy Lifestyles: To promote the health and well-being of our

residents, to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Corporate Health and Safety Annual Report 2019/20, at Appendix 1 be noted.
- 2.2 That the delegations in relation to health and safety functions agreed at Cabinet on 12.11.20, at Appendix 2 be noted. In furtherance any action taken in respect of delegation L4, the leader will be informed of any such incidents.
- 2.3 That the Risk definitions and assurance ratings, at Appendix 3 be noted.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to present an annual Health and Safety report, in which case JCSC members will not be updated on H&S activity across the Council and understand whether the Council's commitment to the management of H&S risks are being managed effectively.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council must comply with a number of statutory obligations in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and other H&S legislation, Health and Safety Executive Guidance, Approved Codes of Practice and other industry best practice.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1. Corporate Health and Safety Annual Report 2019/20
- 8.2 Appendix 2. Health & Safety and Emergency Planning delegations

8.3 Appendix 3. Risk definitions and assurance ratings

9 Background Papers

9.1 None identified.

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To ensure the JCSC members are updated in respect of Health and Safety activity across the Council in order to provide assurance of the Council's commitment to the management of health and safety and associated risks are being managed effectively.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 29.10.20

**Approved on behalf of the
Monitoring Officer**

Date: 29.10.20