

REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 14 June 2002)

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2002/2003 (REPORT A) (MINUTE 6)

The Council is designated as a Health and Safety Enforcing Authority under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Thus the Council has a statutory duty to enforce the Act in those premises allocated under the provisions of the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998.

Guidance from the Health and Safety Commission is mandatory and local authorities are required to perform their duties in accordance with such guidance.

The following elements are essential for a local authority to discharge its duty as an enforcing authority:

- A clear published statement of Enforcement Policy and Practice;
- A system for prioritised and planned inspection activity, according to hazard and risk and consistent with any advice given by the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELA);
- The adoption of a Service Plan detailing the Council's priorities and its aims and objectives for the enforcement of Health and Safety;
- Reference to the capacity to investigate workplace accidents and to respond to complaints by employers and others against the allegation of health and safety failures;
- Arrangements for benchmarking performance with other local Authorities;
- Provision of a trained and competent inspectorate; and
- Arrangements for liaison and co-operation in respect of the Lead Partnership Scheme.

Report A to the Committee included full details of the Service Plan, which embodied those elements noted above insofar as the District Council's responsibilities are concerned.

It includes sections on service aims and objectives; background; service delivery; resources; quality assessment and also proposes an annual review.

As the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan for 2002/2003 is a major policy document, approval by the Council is required under the Constitution. Accordingly, the General Purposes and Licensing Committee has

RECOMMENDED:

That the Health and Safety Enforcement Plan contained within Report A to the Committee be approved.

**Cllr W H Dow
CHAIRMAN**

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