

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
5 July 2007

HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2007-2008
(Director of Environment and Leisure)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To comply with Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the Council must ensure that national priorities and standards are delivered effectively and consistently at a local level.
- 1.2 A Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan for 2007-2008 has been produced to meet the statutory requirements. The Committee is asked to consider the Plan attached as Annex 1 to this report.
- 1.3 Members will recall commenting on the draft Enforcement Plan at the Committee Meeting of 1 February 2007. The purpose of this report is to finalise the plan prior to adoption.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee adopts the Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan as set out in Annex 1 for 2007-2008.**
- 2.2 **The Committee notes the focus on topic inspections and the option of inspection strategies for low-risk businesses to ensure our resources are allocated to areas of greatest risk/impact.**
- 2.3 **The Committee notes the portfolio of Joint Working with the Health and Safety Executive designed to ease the burden on business in the Borough and to meet the Health and Safety Commissioning (HSC) targets to improve health and safety by 2010.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 The Borough Solicitor is satisfied that the relevant legal provisions are contained within the body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Access Implications

- 3.3 There are no access issues arising from the report.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Plan for Health and Safety Law Enforcement (Annex 1) has been re-drafted setting out the Council's plan for health and safety in line with direction from the HSC and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Appendix A shows a work plan for 2007-2008.
- 4.2 Matters relating to Health and Safety management fall to the Health and Safety Commission. There are effectively two main regulatory arms, the Health and Safety Executive and the Local Authorities. Within Bracknell Forest, enforcement is a function of the Environmental Health and Safety Section. The Borough currently has 1,191 local businesses where it has the statutory responsibility to enforce the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. To be effective, a risk rating is allocated to all businesses in accordance with Health and Safety Guidance to ensure all relevant businesses are inspected according to risk. Some of the Borough's premises are deemed sufficiently low risk and therefore are not subject to routine inspection but alternative strategies in the form of self-assessment questionnaires, newsletters, mailshots and seminars. The programme for health and safety inspection 2007-2008 is shown in Appendix 1 attached to this report.
- 4.3 As part of the Government drive to ease the burden of regulation on business and to revitalise health and safety in the Borough, the Council signed a Statement of Intent with the Health and Safety Executive committing to working in closer partnership so as to further national, regional and local priorities. A portfolio of joint working has been agreed with the HSE based around 'Fit3' which is "Fit for Work, Fit for Life, Fit for Tomorrow". This programme of targeted health and safety activity is detailed in Appendix A and involves partnership working with the Health and Safety Executive and local businesses to create "added value".
- 4.4 Progress against the Plan is measured monthly and reported to Members in the Quarterly Operations Reports. The Plan is also underpinned by written procedures to ensure effective service delivery.
- 4.5 Consultation is ongoing and it is proposed to consult stakeholders as regards the contents of the plan by publishing the plan on the Borough's website and issuing copies at key locations in the Borough including the Council's libraries and town and parish council offices. No representations were made in relation to the previous plan during 2006-2007.

Background Papers

1. HSC Strategy for Workplace Health and Safety in Great Britain to 2010 and Beyond – (Securing Health Together – SH2)
2. Health and Safety in Local Authority Enforced Sectors, Section 18. HSC Guidance to Local Authorities (09/01)
3. HELA Circular Number 67/1 (Rev 3) Advice to Local Authorities in Inspection Programmes and an Inspection Rating System (12/2000)
4. Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan 2006-2007

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