AGENDA

REPORT TO
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE
30 NOVEMBER 2026

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
CORPORATE SERVICES

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the health, safety and wellbeing performance of the Council for the period 1 June 2026 – 31 October 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The current position as identified in the report is noted.

DETAIL

1. The service has always reported based on activity, it is important that H&S risks are understood and as such reports moving forward will be more aligned to understanding how well H&S risks are being managed.
2. There is a project underway within the team to align the work being undertaken by the team to these core H&S risks to facilitate an assessment of the risks faced by the Council. As the revised programme of H&S audit work is completed, we will gain a better understanding of the current status of risks.
3. Reports during this implementation period will continue to develop to include more information and a robust method of assessing risk. During this period the assessment of risks will have some limitations.

Health & Safety Risks

4. Below is a summary of the main H&S Risks:

- The main area of concern relates to fire risks; this is a long-standing issue relating to capacity to complete fire risk assessments to a standard introduced in the Fire Safety Act 2021 which came into force May 2022. High risk buildings have been risk assessed and work continues to risk assess medium and low risk buildings.
- A recent increase in accidents has been reviewed, no singular cause has been identified, reminders have been issued via toolbox talks and the numbers will continue to be monitored. It should also be noted this increase does correspond with the introduce of an electronic reporting process.
- Assault numbers are relatively stable and there are no issues to raise at this time.

Current Audit Programme

5. The revised programme of audit work is now bedded in, reviews are completed on a thematic basis each quarter with the focus being on fire risk management to support the work being undertaken to improve our readiness in this area.

Health & Safety Advice

6. The team continue to support services with their risk management arrangements by providing ad-hoc H&S advice and guidance. Work on reviewing all of our H&S related policies and guidance continues.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial - None

Legal - The Health and Safety team enable the Authority to comply with Regulation 7 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, to assist in complying with the requirements and prohibitions imposed under relevant statutory provisions.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The activity of the Health and Safety Team in conjunction with Line Manager's support, contribute to the effective identification and mitigation of a broad range of occupational health and safety risks.

COUNCIL PLAN IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

N/A

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Background Papers: Health and Safety Policy 2025

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: None
Property Implications: None