

AGENDA

REPORT TO AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 29 JULY 2024

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 May 2024 – 30 June 2024.

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. This work will take some time as it includes the introduction of a new system of recording and planning H&S audit work and we will have a revised audit programme in place for April 2024. 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:

Risk	Incidents Recorded	Training Delivered	Other Comments
Asbestos Management		15	
Culture			Work is being undertaken to refresh the H&S policy and develop an induction programme specifically for new managers, both tasks will help ensure a H&S culture is embedded.
Construction			
Display Screen Equipment		38	
Electrical Safety			
Equipment, Machinery & Plant		See Comments	Training is delivered via on-site monitoring and "toolbox" talks, numbers currently not recorded.
Fire Safety		34	Revised approach to fire risk management has been proposed.
Open Water and Flooding			
Gas Safety			

Hazardous Substances			
Violence & Aggression	9		Reduction from 28 in the same period in the previous year.
Legionella			
Lone Working			
Noise			
Manual Handling			
Working at Height			
Vibration			
H&S Risk Assessment	17		Generally slips/trips

Current Audit Programme

5. The number of health and safety audits completed within the reporting period was **22**

Individual Overall Audit Opinion			
Opinion	Definition	No of Audit opinions	% of total
Full assurance	A robust system of control exists with evidence of a consistent application of the safety management safeguards, but opportunity for continued improvement may exist in some control areas	10	45
Substantial assurance	A robust system of control exists, but improvement is needed to enhance the safety management safeguards.	12	55
Moderate assurance	Safety management safeguards are being applied but there are weaknesses compromising resilience to risk and consequent harm.		
Partial assurance	There is a limited or inconsistent application of the safety management safeguards, substantially compromising resilience to risk and consequent harm.		
No Assurance	The safety management safeguards are failing and require urgent management action.		
Total No of Audits		22	100%

The current agreed audit programme will continue and will be reported in this format for the remainder of the year. Starting from April 2024 the audit programme will be linked to H&S Risk and will be included in the risk update report shown in Para 4.

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 2022

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: None

Property Implications: None