

## **Executive Report**

**HEALTH & DIVERSITY PORTFOLIO**

**COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**MARTIN JEPSON – LEAD OFFICER**

### **1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **1.1 Food Premises Inspection Survey**

During August, September and October the food safety team will be contributing to a nationwide survey of food premises on behalf of the food standards agency. The survey of 20 premises randomly selected from due inspections of food manufactures, caterers and retailers involves the completion of a questionnaire after the inspection by inspectors and will take approximately 15 minutes - the survey will not require time or input from food businesses

The survey is being undertaken to provide the food standards agency with information to:

- Set a baseline against which any improvements in food businesses can be measured in the future
- Identify problem areas
- Identify appropriate ways of raising hygiene standards in all premises.

*(Changes to food safety legislation in 2006 to incorporate EC hygiene regulations will place a greater emphasis on food businesses taking responsibility for having acceptable standards of food hygiene, including having a food hygiene management system based on HACCP principles – all businesses will be informed of the changes and the food safety team will continue to work with businesses to provide information. Details of the Safer Food Better Business grant application are not yet available).*

#### **1.2 Backs! 2005**

During July the Health and Safety Team actively contributed to the national BACKS! 2005 Campaign - a joint initiative between local authorities and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to raise awareness of manual handling issues and how back injuries at work can be prevented.

The health and safety team at Copeland inspected 20 premises - advice and information were provided to all. Examples of good practice were identified at Brooks, Duke St, Whitehaven and details of these along with a summary of the inspections has been forwarded to the HSE who are collating information for a report on the event.

### 1.3 Haig Colliery Mining Museum – Health And Safety At Work Matters – Prosecutions By Copeland Borough Council And The Environment Agency

A pre-trial review is set for 16 September 2005.

### 1.4 Planning Policy Issues

The Local Plan Public Inquiry will commence on 27<sup>th</sup> September at Cleator Moor Civic Hall. The number of objectors who have requested their case to be heard in front of the Inspector is 49 and the vast majority will be dealt with in informal hearings. In addition there will be a round-table discussion on general housing issues on the second day of the proceedings. It is expected that the Inquiry will only need to sit for about 10 working days.

### 1.5 Health and Safety

The advertisement for a Health and Safety Officer attracted an encouraging response, with more than 40 applications. Recruitment will be completed during September. There has also been a good response to the appeal for volunteer in-house Safety Representatives, and the first meeting of the Safety Representatives Group will also take place in September. Immediate priorities will include training for the Representatives, and planning of future activities.

## 2. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

## 3. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Subject:** Equality And Diversity

**Date of Decision:** 26 July 2005

**Decision Reference:** EXE/05/0047

**Context:** Requests approval for the acquisition of Equality and Diversity training for staff and Members.

**Decision**

**That**

1. the training packages as described in the report be approved; and
2. £10,000 be used from contingencies to help fund the training packages.

**Subject:** Addendum – Equality & Diversity

**Date of Decision:** 26 July 2005

**Decision Reference:** EXE/05/0051

**Context:** To give Members additional information relating to Agenda Item 11 – Equality and Diversity.

**Decision**

**That the additional information be noted.**