

HEALTH AND DIVERSITY SERVICE PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL - PORTFOLIO HOLDER

MARTIN JEPSON - LEAD OFFICER

1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT

1.1 MANAGEMENT OF RISKS AND PROTECTION OF BUSINESSES

On 30 November, in the Copeland Centre, officers of the Council's Environmental Health Section - in partnership with Cumbria Fire Service, Business Link Quality Guild and Top Solutions (a Cumbrian based computer software business) - held a seminar on Managing Risk in Business with a focus on new fire safety legislation which is due out later this year.

There were over 50 delegates and feedback from them was very positive.

This event was the latest in an ongoing series planned to keep local businesses informed of their legal obligations regarding Food Safety and Health and Safety at Work.

1.2 SAFER FOOD BETTER BUSINESS

Further to my previous reports in recent months on this subject and which was also the subject of a Press Release last month, I can report that the programme of training workshops to help proprietors of local food businesses comply with new food safety legislation is now underway. The first one in Copeland took place on 6 January. All together 8 workshops are planned between November 2005 and November 2006, some of which will be in Millom. As previously reported the Council was awarded £20K from the Food Standards Agency to pay for the running of the workshops.

1.3 PLANNING POLICY ISSUES - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Report was submitted to Government Office before the 30th December deadline which ensures that the Council will be considered for a £52k portion of Planning Delivery Grant next year. As notified to Members it is currently available on the Council's web site and there will be an agenda item for the Planning Panel next month on the issues covered.

1.4 RSS

The Regional Assembly is approving a further draft of the Regional Spatial Strategy this month which will be the subject of formal consultation during a 12 week period in Spring. The Strategy is the primary document relating to land use, development and transportation planning in the North West over the next 20 years and this consultation is an important opportunity for the Council to voice its concerns. A report on matters which should go forward as formal objections or support will be reported through the Executive to Full Council in due course

1.5 LOCAL PLAN:

The Planning Inspectorate has advised that the Inquiry Inspector's report is likely to be delivered in early March. This is slightly later than previously indicated and means that we will have to move quickly on the Modifications stage so that full Adoption can be confirmed before new, more complex legal requirements kick in as from July.

1.6 HEALTH AND SAFETY - SLIPS & TRIPS-GUIDANCE FOR MANAGERS

Every month a safety bulletin issue goes out to managers for advice and guidance from Mike Sharrock, December was the first month's issue 001 Sickness / Absence guidance, this month it is issue 003 Slips & Trips – supporting the pre Christmas presentation given by Vic Emmerson at the national seminar. (as mentioned in last report 13-12-05). Issue 002 Suspicious Mail / Packages - is being perused around the affected departments at the moment and once approved will be put into place as an aid to the customer services, post and reception staff, to prevent any such issues around suspicious post etc.

1.7 TRAINING - WITHIN MANAGEMENT

Corporate team will be attending an external IOSH approved Managing Health and Safety refresher course on the 26th January, this is to refresh the last course in 2002. Management team will be receiving a similar course, aimed at one day a week for four weeks to ensure a level of competence, likewise will the safety reps nominees. This basic awareness training has to my knowledge never been completed before within the CBC, and so is long over due and again will be completed by end of March 2006.

The training forms part of the plan for 2006 which includes all employees from labourers, drivers, waste operatives, parks, crematorium workers, cleansing and office workers to managers and supervisors etc. for in house Manual handling and Banksman training which will be completed by end of June 2006. Further training after this date will comprise of Coshh and Personal Protective Clothing etc.

2 **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

3 **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Subject: Childrens Trust

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0113

Context: This report seeks approval for the Chief Executive and Leader to sign the Childrens Trust Partnership Protocol on behalf of the Council

Decision

That the Chief Executive and Leader be authorised to sign the Childrens Trust Partnership Protocol on behalf of the Council