

Executive Report

HEALTH & DIVERSITY PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR GEOFF BLACKWELL – PORTFOLIO HOLDER

MARTIN JEPSON – LEAD OFFICER

1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT

1.1 TRAINING SUCCESS

Jackie O'Reilly (Team Leader – Food Safety and Health & Safety at Work) has recently undertaken successful training resulting in her being awarded the Lead Auditor's Certificate under ISO 9000 : 2000 Series. This certificate is approved by the Food Standards Agency and means she is fully qualified to audit ISO approved systems and other documented systems. This is particularly useful when dealing with large businesses, especially food manufacturing businesses, and with inter-authority auditing.

1.2 TRAINING SUCCESS

Karen D'Arcy (Administrative Assistant – Environmental Health) has recently undertaken successful training resulting in her being awarded the NEBOSH Certificate in Health and Safety. This means that Karen is properly qualified to give official advice to low-risk businesses, assist with investigations and generally support more effectively the professional and other technical staff in the Health and Safety Team.

1.3 “SAFER FOOD BETTER BUSINESS” INITIATIVES

Further to my previous recent report on the matter I am pleased to report that the programme of courses for local food businesses related to the Government's "Safer Food Better Business" initiative has commenced. To date, 5 courses have been run, 3 in Whitehaven and 2 in Millom. The courses have been well attended and the feedback has been positive. There is a waiting list of businesses wanting to attend.

1.4 ASBESTOS IN THE WORKPLACE

In March the Council's Environmental Health Section is taking part in a 1-day Cumbria-wide event to be held at Newton Rigg regarding asbestos in workplaces, specifically dealing with new legislation, surveying requirements and risk assessments. The event is aimed at small-medium businesses and I am pleased to say that 20 Copeland businesses have signed up to the event.

1.5 PRIMARY CARE TRUST CONSULTATION - CONFIGURATION OF NHS AMBULANCE TRUSTS IN ENGLAND

Separate reports on these topics setting out options for the preferred structure for PCT delivery and configuration of NHS Ambulance Trusts will be

considered at this meeting. Their future structures are vital decisions for West Cumbria.

1.6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

A separate set of detailed recommendations on Equality and Diversity are likely to follow to this meeting from the Executive of 21st February. In addition to this I am pleased to say that we are planning to rollout software training and face to face training on Equality and Diversity in early March.

1.7 PLANNING POLICY ISSUES

The Council has now received the Local Plan Inquiry Inspector's report which includes recommendations on all of the issues which were the subject of formal objections over the last two years. This is slightly earlier than previously expected but I have arranged for the Local Plan Working Party to look at the implications of the Inspector's report in mid-March with a view to presenting its recommendations to Full Council at a special meeting to be called in late March. These will be combined into formal Modifications to the Local Plan which have to be advertised and placed on deposit for a period of 6 weeks before the Council can Adopt the final version of the Plan.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None