

Committee(s):	Date(s):	
Port Health & Environmental Services Committee	2 July 2013	
Subject: Approval of the Health & Safety Intervention Plan 2013-2014	Public	
Report of: Director of Markets & Consumer Protection	For Decision	
<u>Summary</u>		
<p>This report seeks your Committee's approval for the Health & Safety Team's Intervention Plan 2013-2014 for which the City of London Corporation is required to obtain Member approval and subsequently publish.</p> <p>The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) requires local authorities to produce an annual Health & Safety Intervention Plan in accordance with its Section 18 Standard for Health & Safety Enforcing Authorities. Under this standard, every authority such as the City of London Corporation is required to make a formal, corporate commitment to improving health & safety outcomes locally and all Intervention Plans should be agreed by Members.</p> <p>In addition to routine intervention work in areas such as cooling towers, accident and complaint investigation, specific projects will be undertaken on the "Workplace Wellbeing Charter" and running an information campaign for businesses and the public on key health and safety issues.</p>		
Recommendations		
<p>I recommend that your Committee approves the key work areas outlined in this report and detailed in the Health & Safety Intervention Plan 2013-2014.</p>		

Main Report

Background

1. In order to be transparent and accountable, local authorities are required to publish plans setting out their enforcement work in key areas, and Health & Safety is one of a number of areas for which we are required to publish by the Government agency, the Health & Safety Executive.
2. Specific information above and beyond that is contained in Departmental and Service Business Plans is required to be published as is performance against previous plans.
3. The highlights of our health & safety intervention work during the past year 2012-2013 were that:-
 - a) we advised on and intervened where necessary at, City-based Olympic activities such as the Olympic and Paralympic Marathons, test events, the Torch Relay, the

- Athletes Parade and the running of the various National Olympic Committee Houses, to ensure overall, a safe and successful London 2012 Olympic Games;
- b) we developed and hosted a pan-London exercise to embed the London Legionella Outbreak Protocol with the HSE, all London local authorities and the Health Protection Agency (HPA);
 - c) we delivered 'Cooling Tower Inspection' training to over 47 Environmental Health Officers and Health & Safety Executive Inspectors across London and the UK, an important contribution to improving knowledge and competence on Legionella issues for regulators;
 - d) we redesigned and launched the team's webpages on the new City of London [website](#);
 - e) we launched a Twitter account [@SafeSquareMile](#) - "*signposting the way to safety, health and well-being for all who work in the historic "Square Mile"*"; and
 - f) we developed the team's chargeable Primary Authority Partnerships with **CBRE** and **Virgin Active** on health & safety management systems, audited their performance, provided speakers at conferences and training events and dealt with a variety of regulatory queries and challenges from other UK local authorities.

Current Position

4. Under the HSE's Section 18 Standard for Health & Safety Enforcing Authorities (HSEAs), every enforcing authority such as the City of London Corporation should make a formal, corporate commitment to improving health & safety outcomes and produce a written intervention plan agreed by senior management and Members.
5. The HSE's Section 18 Standard is so called because it is made under powers conferred upon them by Section 18 of the Health & Safety Act 1974. It is a prescribed standard encompassing matters such as having a competent inspectorate, an enforcement policy, annual intervention plans such as Appendix 1, and partnership working arrangements with the HSE and other local authorities. The health & safety enforcement operations of all Health & Safety Enforcing Authorities are judged against this standard. Previously it was only guidance, but from the April 2009, it became statutory.
6. A local authority's health & safety intervention plan should set out their overall aims and priorities and include a range of risk-based interventions such as pro-active inspections of high risk businesses, specific local enforcement initiatives, accident and complaint investigations, revisits to check on earlier enforcement action, the provision of advice to new and existing businesses, and awareness raising and promotional activities in general.
7. These interventions should all be targeted at:-
 - the most serious health & safety risks and/or least well-controlled hazards;
 - those businesses that seek economic advantage from non-compliance with health & safety law;
 - securing action by dutyholders to reduce health & safety risks; and
 - improving health & safety outcomes for employees.
8. The health & safety intervention plan, which can be annual or part of a longer, rolling and annually reviewed process, should also:-
 - set out how the authority intends to deliver its health & safety enforcement service;

- make reference to its performance against any previous year's intervention plan; and
 - be a stand-alone document, or part of a broader plan of regulatory services, as long as it clearly identifies the health & safety priorities and plans for intervention of the local authority.
9. As well as being based upon both local needs, and whenever possible, regional and national initiatives, all our interventions are in accordance with the Government's current guidance on health & safety enforcement and for 2013-2014, as well as continuing with our proactive and reactive intervention work on:-
- a) cooling towers and other at-risk water systems;
 - b) massage and special treatment risks;
 - c) Primary Authority Partnerships with **CBRE** and **Virgin Active**; and
 - d) investigating accidents and health & safety complaints.
- and we will also:-
- e) be continuing to develop an engagement strategy for promoting our new project on the "Workplace Wellbeing Charter" - an opportunity for employers to demonstrate their commitment to the health and well-being of their workforce; and
 - f) running an information campaign for businesses and the public on key health & safety issues, as Members requested at a previous Committee.

Proposals

10. I therefore recommend that your Committee approves the Health & Safety Intervention Plan 2013-2014.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The Health & Safety Intervention Plan reflects the detailed operational work undertaken by regulatory enforcement teams as set out in the Vision, Strategic Aims and Key Policy Priorities of the City of London Corporate Plan 2013-2016; this is achieved through our departmental Business Plan and individual service plans which detail the work that will be done and which is judged by our key performance indicators.
12. Approval of these Plans will ensure that the City meets its fundamental obligations under the requirements of the HSE's Section 18 Standard for Health & Safety Enforcing Authorities.
13. As previously, it is my intention to make the plan available to all stakeholder businesses operating within City of London which will include publication on the City of London's website. In accordance with the stated policy of the HSE, this will make the City's intentions transparent and accountable to all relevant parties, and also enables any comments received on the documents to be taken into account at the next revision for 2014-2015.

Other Implications

14. There are no other implications that would result from approval of this report.

Conclusion

15. The Health & Safety Intervention Plan is also in the Port Health & Public Protection Business Plan 2013-2014 and will be also be updated annually, subject to your approval.

Background Papers:

The background papers to this report:-

Appendix 1 Health & Safety Intervention Plan 2013-2014

will be made available in the Members' Reading Room and on the City Corporation's intranet via this link.

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