

ANGUS HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM

Abstract

This report proposes that Angus Council hosts a seminar at Angus College to discuss Health and Safety matters in the local contracting industry.

1 RECOMMENDATION

The Resources and Central Services Committee is recommended to:

1. endorse and approve the initiative to host a seminar and set up a Health and Safety Forum at an Angus level as discussed in this report
2. note that the costs of hosting the seminar can be contained within the Property Services Department's Revenue budget.

2 BACKGROUND

Members will be aware that the Property Services Department has been pro-active in promoting good practice in the management of health and safety on construction sites and has developed a health and safety performance manual which has been incorporated in all construction works procured by Property Services since 1 April 2000. The manual has been distributed to all contractors working for the Property Services Department of Angus Council and is reviewed annually. This performance manual is a key element in the way we contribute to the management of health and safety on construction sites and includes reference to good practice and procedures in the implementation of the statutory requirements of health and safety.

An approach was made earlier this year from a local building contracting company on the topic of health and safety in construction, and in particular the duties imposed on the client (Angus Council), designer (Property Services and Roads Departments) and the contractor under the Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations. Following discussion, there was agreement that it would be useful to set up a locally based liaison group to enable the respective parties involved to review how these regulations are implemented and at the same time to cover a wider discussion on the requirements of health and safety in construction.

The Director of Property services and the council's Safety Manager also discussed this approach with representatives of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in Aberdeen and the HSE welcomed the initiative from Angus to establish a forum for discussion on these issues. There has also been a letter of support from Scottish Building, the body representing building contractors in Scotland.

3 PROPOSALS

As a result of these preliminary discussions at local level it was felt that there would be merit in arranging in the first instance a seminar on health and safety in the construction industry at an Angus level. The intention of this would be to discuss the implementation of the CDM regulations in particular and health and safety management in general. It is expected that the outcome of this seminar would be the setting up of a locally based Health and Safety Liaison Group composed of representatives from the local construction industry, designers, client bodies and other relevant property professions. The remit of the liaison group is likely to include the ongoing monitoring of health and safety issues and how health and safety management can be developed to improve standards at a local level.

The Director of Property Services has made provisional arrangements for the initial seminar to take place at Angus College on the 2 December 2005 and proposes that Angus Council hosts this meeting as a preliminary to the launch of an ongoing liaison group. A programme and agenda is being prepared and will be made available in due course.

In the meantime the Resources and Central Services Committee is invited to endorse and approve this initiative.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of hosting the seminar is not expected to exceed £1,500 which can be contained within the departmental revenue budget of the Property Services Department.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

7 PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

There are no property implications specific to this report.

8 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Acting Director of Finance, the Director of Roads and the Personnel Services Manager have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

M G Lunny
Director of Property Services