

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

20 OCTOBER 2005

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MANAGEMENT SAFETY FORUM

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of the establishment of a Management Safety Forum which has been set up to help further promote an active safety culture within the council.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the terms of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

Amongst the actions contained in the improvement plan arising from a best value management review of the council's safety function carried out in 2003, was to establish, on a pilot basis, a Management Safety Forum. The overall aim in setting up the Forum was to further promote an active safety culture within the council. Its specific objectives were identified as:

- To provide an additional means of giving information and advice about safety issues eg legislative changes and their practical implications for departments.
- To assist departments prepare and/or to respond to new legislation etc.
- To identify common safety problems and concerns and develop solutions.
- To develop and share good practice.

The Forum is not intended to replace or duplicate the network of safety consultative committees and groups which operates within departments. The intention is that the Forum, which is a management only body, attended by a senior officer from each department, complements the work of these other bodies. The Forum, chaired by the Head of Employee Development, Training and Safety or the Safety Manager, meets quarterly with its first meeting having been held in April 2004. At that meeting it was confirmed that the Forum would run for a year on a pilot basis, following which period its operation would be reviewed to determine whether it was achieving its objectives. Were this not to be the case the Forum would be discontinued.

During the year the Forum considered a range of issues including:

- Occupational road risk.
- The outcomes of an Internal Audit Systems Audit of Corporate Health and Safety.
- Lone working.
- The safe disposal of discarded needles and syringes.
- Working at heights.

At the end of the pilot year the effectiveness of the Forum was reviewed. In summary, it was the strong view of the senior managers who attend the Forum that it was meeting its objectives thereby benefiting safety management both within departments and across the council as a whole and that it should continue to operate. The Forum has therefore been established on a permanent basis.

Members may wish to note that the establishment of the Management Safety Forum, as an example of its commitment to continuously seeking to improve its safety performance, was part of the council's submission to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) in its successful pursuit of a silver health and safety award from that body.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Director of Law & Administration and the Acting Director of Finance have been consulted on the terms of this report.

D S Sawers
Chief Executive

HR/PerServMan

NOTE 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.