



REPORT of INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER

**to
FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)
24 SEPTEMBER 2019**

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on corporate health and safety activity from 1 April to 30 June 2019 (quarter one).
- 1.2 To show progress with the Health and Safety Action Plan for 2019 / 20, attached at **APPENDIX 1** to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the accident and incident statistics for the quarter be noted;
- (ii) That progress with the Health and Safety Action Plan for 2019 / 20 (**APPENDIX 1**) be noted.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 There were seven accidents and no near misses reported accident during the quarter.
 - **Staff:** Five accidents: remedial measures were taken in relation to one of the accidents.
 - **Members of the public:** Two accidents: a child was hurt whilst playing on the Galleon in Promenade Park, equipment was checked to ensure it was in good order; and an adult was hurt whilst playing walking football.
- 3.2 There has been one incident of unacceptable behaviour involving a member of staff in Planning and Regulatory Services; this is lower than recent levels of reporting.
- 3.3 Progress with the Health and Safety Action Plan for 2019 / 20 can be seen in **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.4 There has been no further contact to date from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following the submission of data and information as requested on how the Council manages Hand Arm Vibration (HAV) within the Parks Department. To manage this risk, the Council monitors the use of equipment which may lead to HAV. Health checks are now being undertaken for practical ground based staff in relation to HAV, hearing and eyesight.

3.5 Following the implementation of phase one and two, several staff with health and safety responsibilities have left or will be leaving the organisation and replacements have been nominated or will need to be nominated.

- Legionella duty holders and fire marshals have been appointed.
- First aiders and display screen equipment assessors need to be appointed.

3.6 The fire procedure has been updated and fire marshals have been identified for all fire zones based on current seating plans. If there are further organisational moves, the fire procedure will be updated accordingly.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 No worrying trends in relation to accidents at work or incidents of unacceptable behaviour.

4.2 Progress is being made in relation to the Health and Safety Action Plan for 2019 / 20.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

5.1 Managing health and safety well helps protect the workforce and wider community who may be affected by the Council's activities ensuring that communities stay safe and healthy.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- Impact on Customers** – Good health and safety management reduces the number of accidents and injuries to both customers and employees alike. Reduced staff absence resulting from work related injuries or ill health ensures a better service is provided to customers.
- Impact on Equalities** – None.
- Impact on Risk** – Poor management of health and safety can lead to accidents, injuries, occupational ill health or dangerous occurrences. This may result in avoidable sickness absence and these incidents may be investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). This could result in prosecution with fines or custodial sentences and an award of costs if found guilty by the courts. In addition the HSE has adopted a “Fee for Fault” policy in which it recharges the cost of investigations if liability is identified. Civil claims by individuals could lead to significant pay outs which in turn could lead to increased insurance premiums. It can also lead to poor publicity, reputational damage and impacts on staff morale.
- Impact on Resources (financial)** – No additional resources required, however, by managing health and safety, there should be less impact on financial resources as identified in (iii) above.

- (v) **Impact of Resources (human)** – No additional resources are required, however, by preventing accidents and ill health, there should be less impact on human resources.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Good health and safety management of the workplace, for example, management of asbestos and legionella, helps provide a safer and healthier environment in which to live and work.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Gill Gibson, Health and Safety Adviser, (Tel: 01621 875813).