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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

HSC Stakeholder Conference 2005 evaluation and findings and options for 2006 Conference

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Cleared by

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On

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Issue

1. This paper follows on from Commission paper HSC 05/113 outlining arrangements for the 2005 conference and a briefing document circulated to Commissioners on 30.9.05. This paper is aimed at: (i) informing the Commission of the findings and evaluation arising from the 2005 Commission Stakeholder Conference; and (ii) seeking Commission steer on the aims and objectives of the 2006 Conference including possible options/themes and recommendations on outline content and format.

Timing

2. To be cleared in correspondence with Commissioners by 31 January 2006 to enable plans to move forward, particularly to secure the agreement of Ministers and other speakers to attend and alert the intended audience in good time. The planned date for the 2006 Commission conference is 10 October.

Recommendation

3. That the Commission:
 - (i) note the findings and evaluation of the 2005 Conference;
 - (ii) propose aims and objectives of the 2006 Conference including possible options/themes and recommendations on outline content and format, the desired outcomes, intended audience and key messages.

Background

4. Commission paper HSC 05/113 proposed the outline arrangements for the 2005 Stakeholder Conference. Some of the main objectives were to:

- inform the public and raise the profile of health and safety issues
- share and promote best practice
- attain commitment from Stakeholders
- build and sustain partnerships
- listen to stakeholders and reflect on what they say
- use the learnings as a springboard to develop further actions
- measure progress towards the targets set out in Revitalising health and safety

5. Post event evaluation has indicated:

- a high approval rating from delegates who attended. The event attracted a good cross section of targeted stakeholders from a variety of sectors, although ideally we would have liked more senior attendees. Overall 244 delegates attended, with the percentage split as follows:

HSC/E	8.5%
Other Central Government	5.5%
Trade Unions	8.3%
Local Authorities	11.11%
Other private sector	14%
Industry and business	21%
Other (e.g consultants, specialists trade associations, professional bodies)	32%

- the sessions in the morning were considered informative and valuable. The afternoon sessions, which focussed on specific programmes, were viewed as being of great value in setting out measures and actions considered vital to the achievements of the ill health, injury and days lost targets.
- Main findings arising from the evaluation included:
 - (i) all respondents said they found the Conference worthwhile
 - (ii) all respondents from Central Government, industry and business and the trade unions said the Conference would prove useful to identify further action which would help achieve changes in their organisation's culture and promote improvements in health and safety performance.
- Comments from delegates included:
 - (i) "Extremely informative, case studies were excellent and it is interesting to see how a range of businesses are managing different aspects of health and safety, and approaches taken towards sickness absence management/ rehabilitation.
 - (ii) "Good to be aware of latest developments and what is coming and the thinking of the Commission."
 - (iii) "To see and hear the Commissioners is useful and informative."
 - (iv) "Brought out well the wider picture."

6. Details of the 2005 programme, list of attendees and evaluation summary are provided at Annexes 1 to 3 respectively for information.
7. This event should be seen in the context of many other events, on a large or smaller scale, happening throughout the year and providing an opportunity for Commissioners to engage with different stakeholders – e.g., Commission Christmas Reception, seminars and round table meetings with stakeholders on specific themes such as sensible risk management, the Party Conference fringe events, sector conferences such as the Construction Summit.

Argument

8. In view of the Commissions aim to hold a Commission conference in 2006, some early thoughts on theme, format etc are:
 - (i) The “Health, work and well being” agenda appears to lend itself well as a possible central theme for the 2006 Conference. Does the Commission agree that this would provide a suitable main theme for the conference?
 - (ii) the Conference for 2006 to follow a similar format to that of 2005 with plenary sessions in the morning and workshops in the afternoon.
 - (iii) the agenda is constructed to enable delegates to attend all day or morning or afternoon only.
 - (iv) it will be more successful in attracting key influential senior stakeholders if we use the morning session for keynote addresses and key messages.
 - (v) It is unlikely that the timing of the conference would coincide with the publication of the 2005/6 health and safety statistics – we would not then have the same focus on progress against targets. Also, we are looking to produce a separate report on the performance of the HSE/C in later November The report would pull together the annual statistics and a range of performance information in very accessible way – again, the timing of this event will not coincide.
 - (vi) For the afternoon sessions, are there any specific issues that the Commission would like to be discussed, for example, specific programmes or issues?
 - (vii) Are there any topics from the 2005 conference that should be returned to and agreed actions reviewed?

These suggestions depend on the aims and objectives of the conference.

Consultation

9. Communications Delivery Service, Communications Directorate, Secretariat.

Presentation

10. The 2006 event and all event material would be branded HSC. Assuming the format is to be similar to that of 2005 in relation to structure and attendance numbers, it is suggested that London would be the preferred location for the Conference as experience shows that it would help attract a wider range of key stakeholders in comparison to other major city venues.

11. The media publicity generated by the 2005 Conference and in particular from the linkage to the health and safety statistics launch attracted regional and specialist media coverage. A communications plan will be produced for the 2006 conference to ensure that key messages and keynote presentations are widely disseminated.

Costs and Benefits

12. See costs for 2005 Conference at Annex 4.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

13. Resource costs are expected to be similar to those incurred in 2005 (approx £62,500). However, this will depend on factors such as location, venue and delegate numbers.

Environmental Implications

14. None

Other Implications

15. None

Action

16. That the Commission:

- note the findings and evaluation of the 2005 Conference
- affirm aims and objectives for the 2006 Conference and the desired outcomes, intended audience and key messages by 31.01.06.