

**HELA Meeting: 21 March 2005**  
**Task and finish groups.**

**Background**

1. Nick Cull's paper on new partnership governance arrangements attached to the July '05 Commission paper states at para 59-61: -

*"HELA currently operates with a Technical Sub-Committee and a Petroleum Enforcement Liaison Group (PELG). The Working Group considers that the Technical Sub-Committee should be disbanded and its work allocated to Task and Finish Groups involving local government representation where appropriate. PELG should be transformed into an Advisory Committee, with appropriate local government representation, meeting as and when there are relevant issues for discussion and decision."*

**Current position**

2. PELG is in the process of transformation, the target date for completing the governance driven change is xxxxxxx. The HELA technical sub-committee did not meet in October '05 in acknowledgement of the Commission paper; its last meeting took place on 18 January 2005. It has no outstanding business to conduct.

**Role for new HELA task and finish groups**

3. The HELA technical sub-committee was formed originally to aid HELA in dealing with technical and enforcement matters at a detailed level. Many of these issues are now being managed directly via LACoRS led input at source. E.g LACoRS input to fundamental review of RIDDOR.

4. Similarly the transition to programme/project led joint working provides for new ways for overcoming barriers to joint and consistent working between LAs and HSE. E.g. Fit3 projects have LA 'Buddies', LACoRS input to LOPP Programme board.

5. The Commission paper indicated however that *"Improved HSE: LACORS liaison arrangements must ensure that issues of relevance to the partnership are effectively processed, eg through 'task and finish' groups."*

6. Arguably therefore, task and finish groups are a tool through which HSE and LAs can work together on management arrangements that need to be in place to support partnership working, and which are not capable of being resolved through other means mentioned above.

**HELA role**

7. HELAs role should be to recognise (via, LACoRS H&SPF and LAU) the need for task and finish groups; to provide direction, support and timeframes to those being tasked and to communicate the outputs/outcomes to relevant parties.

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**Potential issues for task and finish groups**

8. See annex below

Annex	
Partnership Issue	Current arrangements/status
1. Arrangements for authoring and publishing technical and enforcement guidance for all H&S Enforcing Authorities	None, but HSE is in the process of establishing a hierarchy of documentation to support its inspectors.
2. Consistency of LA/HSE inspection prioritisation arrangements – inspection rating systems and inspection programmes	LAC 67/1 - advice to local authorities on intervention programmes and an inspection rating system.
3. Consistency of LA/HSE incident selection criteria	LAC22/13 – Incident investigation selection criteria
4. Production of a 'S18 HSWA' Enforcing Authority Standard for HSC endorsement	HSC S18 Mandatory guidance (applies only to LAs)
5. Reviewing activity reporting of <u>all</u> Enforcing authorities to meet Commission needs.	LAE1 process for LAs; via COIN/FOCUS reports for HSE
6. Developing policy to enable the Commission to identify and deal effectively with poor or inadequate performance of its enforcing authorities	HELA audits currently suspended; report of LA audit of FOD Wales not yet available.

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