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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Strategy Implementation

A Paper by Marion Cast

Advisor(s): Steve Woolley

Cleared by Brian Etheridge on 16th April 2004

Issue

1. Ensuring the implementation of the HSC Strategy

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. That HSC note the proposed approach to implementing the Strategy

Background

4. In February 2004 the Minister Des Browne and Bill Callaghan launched the new HSC Strategy 'To 2010 and Beyond'. This strategy promotes the HSC vision of 'making Health and Safety a cornerstone of a civilised society' through working with others in the Health and Safety system.
5. The Strategy has been seen as innovative and forward thinking by a number of organisations and was also mentioned in the budget speech as an example of the way in which regulators should act. We have created a huge expectation among our stakeholders, Ministers and other government departments and it is vital that we have adequate arrangements in place to ensure its delivery.

Argument

6. The strategy makes clear that delivery will be through well-resourced, efficient programmes of activity with publicised goals and milestones. HSE has oriented its work into three main categories – strategic programmes (which are Major Hazards, Sectors, Health and Safety Hazards, Local Authorities and Better Health at Work Partnership), business improvement and core (see Appendix A). These will be the principal delivery mechanisms for the strategy.
7. To ensure further oversight, each of the principal actions in the Strategy has been assigned to a member of either the Board or the SCS to deliver. This will be managed by Kate Timms and Justin McCracken reporting to Bill Callaghan.(see Appendix B).
8. Many of the actions needed to implement the strategy do form part of the Strategic Programmes and these will be explicit in their Programme Plans. The actions that fall into Core work will form part of the annual workplans of those Directorates and Divisions responsible for them. Some actions may be carried out as part of the Business Improvement Programme and again these will form part of the Programme Plans.
9. Progress of work will be monitored on a quarterly basis through the Strategic Programme reporting process and the Ministerial reporting process, by the Executive. It is not envisaged that this will involve extra reporting streams.
10. In order to ensure that the implementation of the Strategy doesn't just become a tick-box exercise, and the organisation begins to live the behaviours and ways of working explicit in the strategy, there is an expectation on the part of the SCS to engage their staff in the process. All future work will be required to demonstrate a strategic fit and that staff are aware of how their work fits with the strategy. The SCS has been asked to report to Timothy Walker within six months on the behavioural changes that the Strategy has brought about.

Consultation

11. The Executive and Strategic Programme Directors

Presentation

12. The Strategy indicated a number of early deliverables, which may attract press attention if not achieved

Costs and Benefits

13. None

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

14. None

Environmental Implications

15. None

Other Implications

16. LAs – the implementation of the Strategy has a direct impact on the LAs and it is therefore imperative that the working arrangements between the LAs and us are developed together and are manageable on both sides.

17. Health and Safety System – this strategy more than any previous strategy relies heavily on the involvement of all those within the H&S system. We need to ensure that we know who ‘they’ are and that we engage them appropriately.

Action

18. To proceed with the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy providing 6 monthly updates to the Commission