

## Informal Note of Local Government Panel meeting with HSE Board Members

15 April 2009

**HSE Board:** Judith Hackitt; Sandy Blair; Danny Carrigan, Robin Dahlberg,

**HSE:** Marcia Davies

**LGP Councillors:** Geoffrey Theobald; Graham Brown; Alan Witherick; Sandy Scott, Roland Domleo

**LACORS:** Mark Du Val; Charlotte Meller

### **1. Statement of Commitment to the Partnership & Publicising Governance Arrangements**

There was a discussion supporting the general direction and aims of the document but a number of changes were agreed:

- The commitments (currently page 4) would become the front page.
- The mission statement needed to be made bolder.
- The separate statements from Judith and Geoffrey (currently page 1) would form the back page.
- However these separate statements would be combined and reduced in length to produce one joint statement, which includes an explanation of the LGP, which would appear on the top of the back page.
- The lower part of the back page would be taken up with details of the split of enforcement duties between LAs and HSE (largely using the information contained in page 1 of the H&S councillor handbook), and stressing the importance of H&S to councillors.
- A fuller explanation of S18 and that it applies to LAs and HSE would also be included on the back page.
- The 2 inside pages, apart from some minor tweaks, are to remain largely unchanged.
- The document would be completely cross checked with the finalised HSE Strategy to ensure consistency.

The meeting agreed that there would be 2 separate documents produced, namely one for councillors comprised of the front and back pages only, and one for practitioners which would be the full 4 page document.

**ACTION:** LACORS to ensure document updated accordingly

Regarding launch and publicity, the meeting agreed that the main launch would take place at the LGA annual conference in Harrogate (1-3 July), where WLGA and COLSA leaders were also invited, but that suitable launches for Wales and Scotland would also be sought.

**ACTION:** LACORS to liaise with HSE re launches for Wales and Scotland

Given that SOLACE's AGM also took place at the conference, Sandy Blair offered to explore if there could be opportunity to get this document distributed at the AGM. Over 95% of local authority Chief Executives are members of SOLACE, along with a number of senior managers from all local authorities.

**ACTION:** Sandy Blair to liaise with SOLACE

The document would also be circulated with First (a monthly publication to all Councillors) with a supporting article in the publication itself and would be on the agenda at the regional update events later this year.

**ACTION:** LACORS to check the distribution lists for First. Post meeting note the distribution lists can be broken down into officers, councillors, political groups and regions.

## 2. Communicating Good Health & Safety Regulation to Local Authorities

There was a detailed discussion about raising awareness amongst Councillors and Chief Executives of their wider H&S responsibilities and how to communicate positive messages about sensible health and safety. Some of the various influential capacities in which LAs could provide leadership on sensible H&S and demonstrate and encourage good practice - include as providers of regulatory services, as employers, as clients, as procurers and commissioners of services, as strategic partners, etc.

It was agreed that the second half of future meetings would focus on specific topics, inviting appropriate parties to attend and participate in the discussion. The LGP/HSE would look to "sponsor" projects where relevant, with a view to developing examples of good practice.

Given that the incidence of injury in waste and recycling industries is 4 times higher than all industry average, it was agreed procurement and practices in this sector would be good topic to discuss at the October meeting.

**ACTION:** LAU/LACORS to scope out the issue and produce paper for October

Cllr Witherick offered to work with LACORS to pilot an event in the East of England targeting Councillors, which would include an H&S briefing as well as briefings on other community safety issues which would include reference to the HSE Strategy, the Statement of Commitment and the IOSH Councillors document.

**ACTION:** LACORS to liaise with Cllr Witherick

The range of SOLACE communication tools (weekly/monthly briefings/quarterly magazine etc) could be utilised as mechanisms for raising the profile of the HSE Strategy when launched in June.

**ACTION:** HSE Comms to explore options with SOLACE

## 3. Interaction with the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO)

The Group discussed the Primary Authority Scheme, which had been launched on 6<sup>th</sup> April and the potential impact on S18. It was also noted that the Enforcement Management Model needed to be updated in light of the Primary Authority notification mechanism.

**ACTION:** LAU to action changes

The Group agreed that the second half of the October meeting would focus on the Primary Authority (PA) Scheme and that LBRO would be invited to provide a paper and attend the meeting. Discussion would also embrace concepts of home authority, lead authority and the PA determination scheme.

**ACTION:** LACORS to invite LBRO (Done and LBRO have accepted invite)

### October Meeting:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Dinner in Bootle LGP/HSE Board

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

Tour of Redgrave Court and pre meeting of LGP in the morning  
Lunch with HSE Board then meeting of LGP/HSE