

Informal Note of Local Government Panel & HSE Board meeting HSE Redgrave Court, 28th July 2010

HSE Board Members: Judith Hackitt; Robin Dahlberg; Danny Carrigan;
Sandy Blair, David Gartside

HSE Officials: Kevin Myers; Marcia Davies; Rosalind Roberts; Elaine
Harbour; David Bryant

Local Government Panel: Cllrs Paul Bettison; Anita Brown; Graham Brown;
Roland Domleo, Apu Bagchi;

LG Group Officials: Mark du Val; Steve Sumner; Charlotte Meller

1. Proposals for future of LGP/Board meetings

The meeting agreed to extend the remit of the Panel to include both duty holder and regulator local government representatives and that the Terms of Reference (TOR) would be amended accordingly.

ACTION: LG Group to confirm membership and ensure appropriate communication arrangements are in place to share information between the duty holder and regulatory representative members.

ACTION: HSE to send out a draft revised TOR for comment.

2. Post election implications for councils and HSE

Less resources, localism, area based budgeting and other new ways of service delivery with various partners are some of the key drivers for local government. Both HSE and the LG Group are subject to the same cost cutting pressures and will have to operate differently in the future.

Consideration needs to be given to where H&S fits in the localism agenda and what potential H&S issues could emerge from the Big Society approach such as more volunteering, and the role of town and parish councils as more powers and services are delivered at that level. In moving to commissioning rather than providing services it will be even more important to ensure that good H&S practice is part of the contract selection criteria.

The forthcoming Lord Young report on his review of the health and safety regime was discussed and the potential implications for both councils and HSE. All hoped that the review would help redress some of the negative media attention that the H&S brand had received over recent years.

Given the future changes on the horizon and financial implications it was felt even more imperative to work together efficiently and effectively to avoid duplication of effort and ensure that gaps do not appear.

3. H&S of Great Britain Strategy

There was a detailed discussion around the Strategy, including the process of developing and engaging councils and other stakeholders in the strategy.

LG Employers explained about the effective leadership work with councils in England and Wales. The Board welcomed this work and offered its support.

ACTION: HSE Board members committed to attending regional H&S network meetings to assist with taking this work forward

ACTION: HSE to discuss engagement with Scotland at its September Board meeting

LG Regulation spoke about how as regulators, councils were contributing to the Strategy and their preparations for compliance with Section 18 by April 2011. The LGP offered to assist if the intelligence gathering identified any councils that were likely to have difficulties in meeting this requirement.

4. H&S Regional Events

The LG Group committed to having a councillor presence at all of the forthcoming regional events – the emphasis for which would be on how to work together and make progress in the current financial climate.

ACTION: LG Group to advise HSE of attendance arrangements (Post meeting note: some of the LGP membership has changed and replacements are unlikely to be confirmed until mid September which may cause difficulties).

Future meetings

ACTION: Dates to be arranged for January/February 2011 and again in July 2011