

## Statement of commitment between HSE and local authority representative bodies

**This joint statement of commitment**, agreed by HSE and local authority representative bodies in June 2009, sets out our commitment to improved standards of partnership working with one overriding aim – to prevent the death, injury and ill health of those at work and those affected by work activities.

We are committed to working together on the following four clear objectives for the health and safety of Great Britain:

- to reduce the number of work-related fatalities, injuries and cases of ill health;
- to gain widespread commitment and recognition of what real health and safety is about;
- to motivate all those in the health and safety system as to how they can contribute to an improved health and safety performance; and
- to ensure that those who fail in their health and safety duties are held to account.

We are committed to delivering these objectives by working in a close, effectively-governed, partnership that achieves the following aims:

- recognition of the need to balance local/regional priorities against national priorities – achieving the best outcomes for safer, stronger and healthier communities;
- effective targeting and use of resources and funding towards agreed priorities;
- joint planning, work programmes and training ensuring effective interventions and service delivery methods;
- timely communications and better sharing of information between partners;
- working with other regulators and stakeholders to drive forward health and safety improvements, including the health, work and wellbeing programme;

- co-ordinated enforcement activity, consistency and effectiveness, sharing intelligence, data and information, delivery of justice, cross-administrative boundary working;
- production of advice and guidance, publicity, campaigns and communications, best practice;
- implementation of the 'Section 18 standard on enforcement'\* by March 2011;
- ensuring our views are represented within liaison, policy and partnership groups at local, regional and national levels; and
- ensuring that information is provided to politicians, senior managers and practitioners on the decisions of such groups and on their work as regulators.

\* see reverse of this sheet

## Working together to deliver better outcomes

**A joint message from Judith Hackitt CBE (HSE Chair) and Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE (LACORS Chairman)**

As joint chairs of the regular meetings between HSE Board members and senior councillors who form the Local Government Panel of the Local Government Associations we value the opportunity these meetings provide to discuss key health and safety issues for local and central government. The mutual benefit of our meetings has led us to decide that the time is right to demonstrate our continued commitment to the process.

The partnership between HSE and councils has one overriding aim – making a difference to help prevent work-related deaths, injuries and ill health. We're delighted that this aim is now entirely consistent with the mission statement for the Health and Safety System for health and safety in Great Britain. The partnership remains fundamental to how we do business – shaping and delivering our work as co-regulators of health and safety. Combining our resources to deliver national, regional and local priorities is essential.

The new statement helps define how HSE and LACORS, working with and on behalf of the Local Government Associations in England, Wales and Scotland and local

councils who carry out health and safety will work together to ensure that we continue to develop and implement an effective and sensible approach to health and safety in the workplace. Councils should participate and be represented in the partnership governance structures, communicating their local experience and needs to secure improved health and safety compliance.

The statement of commitment also reflects the aims set out in the new Section 18 standard for enforcing authorities – detailing how HSE's field operations and councils can meet their duty to make adequate and consistent arrangements for enforcement. The standard sets out how we can all play our part and is vital to achieving a safe working environment for all those employed in local communities.

A good health and safety regime, focused on the real risks, will have a positive impact on local communities and local businesses, in many cases saving them money through more efficient, safer systems of working. Councils should explore ways that health and safety can help improve the wellbeing of local communities – perhaps as a component of Local Area Agreements in England, Single Outcome Agreements in Scotland and Local Delivery Agreements in Wales.

**The strong co-regulator partnership between HSE and councils is integral to the new strategy and to its delivery. We're confident that by restating our commitment to partnership working we will go further in working together effectively. This will help us deliver and further secure improvements in workplace health and safety.**

## Enforcing authorities – councils and HSE

**Councils regulate health and safety in over a million workplaces, employing around half the British workforce. HSE is responsible for the rest.**

The role of the enforcing authorities is to ensure that duty holders manage and control risks from work activities – health and safety at work should therefore feature prominently in councils' corporate plans.

The sectors overseen by councils and HSE include:

### Councils

Offices  
Shops  
Hotels  
Restaurants  
Pubs and clubs  
Care homes  
Warehouses  
Places of worship

### HSE

Factories  
Farms  
Building sites  
Nuclear installations  
Mines  
Hospitals  
Government premises  
Schools/colleges

## Section 18 standard

**Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 places a duty on the HSE and local authorities to make adequate enforcement arrangements.**

A new 'Section 18 standard' sets out the arrangements they should put in place to meet this duty. All enforcing authorities are required to comply with the standard by March 2011. To help compliance, a number of toolkits have been developed – see [www.hse.gov.uk/section18/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/section18/)

**For further information about this joint statement of commitment, please contact either HSE or LACORS**

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