

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Executive - 11 July 2005

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For action

Wards affected:
All

Report Title: Partnership Working in London – Local Authorities and the Health & Safety Executive

Forward Plan Ref: E&C-05/06-010

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks member's endorsement of a local statement of intent for London partnership working between LB Brent and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and agreement to the signing of a joint declaration of partnership working. The declaration and statement of intent reflect the new Health & Safety Commission (HSC) strategy for work place health and safety and has been agreed between the HSE, HSC and local authority representative bodies.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members signal the council's commitment to joint working by endorsing the local statement of intent for London partnership working between the London Borough of Brent, other boroughs and the Health & Safety Executive.
- 2.2 That members agree to the signing of a joint declaration of partnership working on 13th July 2005 by the Directors of Health Safety & Licensing and Environmental Health, who both hold responsibility for the council's statutory functions under the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 assigns the statutory responsibility for enforcing workplace health and safety to HSE and Local Authorities. This division is under review and previous ways of

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Version (No 2.1)
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working have not fully exploited the potential for partnership working.

- 3.2 A new Health and Safety Commission (HSC) “Strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond” sets out a direction for health and safety systems across the country and envisages significant changes in how the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and Local Authorities work together. The strategy promotes more effective partnership working, common goals and standards, and a joint focus of resources on agreed health and safety priorities.
- 3.3 The HSC has now set up the ‘Local Authorities and HSE Working Together’ programme to improve partnership working between HSE and LAs. This is one of five key programmes to deliver the HSC Strategy.
- 3.4 The Steering Group for the Programme comprises elected member representatives of the LA Associations and Health and Safety Commissioners. The Group has agreed a ‘Statement of Intent’ setting out their joint commitment to deliver the Programme’s aims. The principal aim is more effective use of the collective HSE and LA resource through partnership working to reduce accidents and ill health at work, the health and well-being of local communities and employment and business vitality.
- 3.5 There is now strong national and local commitment from HSC and HSE to partnership working. London authorities have been quick to respond both at the strategic management and practitioner level. In London this year, joint planning has already resulted in a London-wide initiative to tackle the issue of Moving Goods Safely.
- 3.6 London authorities have suggested that a local endorsement of the statement of intent should be signed by each borough in order to commit to working together to tackle the health and safety challenges and priorities of the capital.

Benefits

- 3.7 Effective health and safety enforcement can reduce the social, human and financial costs of workplace death, injury and ill health.
- 3.8 Properly resourced health and safety enforcement can have a major positive impact on economic development. There are also strong links between health and safety at work and wider agendas such as healthy communities, public health, health inequalities, community safety, social inclusion and regeneration.
- 3.9 Workplace health and safety is an essential part of ensuring the protection of citizens at all levels – residents, workers, consumers and honest businesses. Issues raised by residents with LAs as high priorities – such as anti-social behaviour associated with pubs, bars and clubs – are inextricably linked with health and safety.

- 3.10 The benefit of working together in partnership to achieve a common set of goals is proven. Brent will have the opportunity to benefit from this partnership work by participating in and influencing joint planning with HSE and other boroughs, effectively pooling resources towards making better, safer local communities. This will further contribute to initiatives for regeneration and health and well being in local communities and thereby enhance employment and business viability within the borough. This clearly links in with the council's key themes within its corporate strategy for building a better borough

Invitation

- 3.11 On 13th July 2005, HSE's London Partnership Team have invited a council representative together with lead officers for Brent along with counterparts from the other London Boroughs, to a Signing Up Event and evening reception at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (located adjacent to the HSE's headquarters building).
- 3.12 Attendees will hear more about the 'LAs and HSE Working Together' programme. The main event will be for each borough to sign a local statement of intent/declaration for London jointly with Brian Etheridge, HSE London Regional Director.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The signing of this statement of intent will not commit the council to providing any additional financial resources.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 None Specific

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report at this stage are not believed to have any diversity implications. However, any future changes to our enforcement policy and procedures that could arise from this proposal will be subject to equality impact analysis.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 None Specific

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 None specific

Background Papers

1. A strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond. www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/strategy.htm
2. New Strategic Programme – Local Authorities Working Together - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/strategic.htm>

Contact Officers

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