

## **11. Health and Safety Committee Update**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To provide the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.
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### **Recommendation**

***The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of this report.***

### **Introduction**

2. The Health and Safety Committee last met on 29 January 2013.

### **Significant Issues Discussed**

3. The revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Safety Committee (formerly the Health and Safety Liaison Panel) were adopted. These now align with the Health and Safety Executive recommendations.
4. The membership of the Committee has also been reviewed and future meetings will be chaired by a Principal Officer (the Assistant Chief Fire Officer). The intention is for the Committee to become more strategic in nature.
5. A review of the previous quarter's Health and Safety performance was discussed in detail. Overall, reporting levels and staff awareness continue to be good and, in general, any injuries reported were mostly minor in nature.
6. Twenty six incidents involving exposure to contaminated water had occurred whilst fire fighting at the Lawrence's Recycling incident in Kidderminster.
7. A significant programme of training continues across the Service including to National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health level and Institution of Occupational Safety and Health Managing Safely level.
8. A programme of single workplace inspections across the Service is being piloted this year and began in early February. These will be undertaken by the Health and Safety Officer together with representatives from Property and Operational Logistics. Early indications are that this has provided a co-ordinated response and reduced impact on stations.
9. A number of health and wellbeing initiatives are being promoted across the Service in order to encourage staff to be more proactive with regard to their personal fitness.

10. The Committee was informed that the University of Edinburgh, supported by the British Heart Foundation, is to undertake a study into why firefighters are more likely to suffer a heart attack on duty than at any other time. The study will take place over a two-year period.
11. The Service has a new Principal Health and Safety Executive Inspector and is currently looking at ways to develop its links with the HSE.

### Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	No	

### Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	No	

### Additional Considerations

12. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
<b>Resources</b> (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	No	
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	Entire Report
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	Yes	Entire Report
<b>Consultation with Representative Bodies</b>	Yes	

**Supporting Information**

None

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