

## **10. Health and Safety Liaison Panel 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 Liaison Panel.
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### **Recommendation**

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

### **Introduction**

2. The Health and Safety Liaison Panel (H&SLP) met on both 3 November 2011 and 25 January 2012.

### **Significant Issues Discussed**

3. The Panel welcomed the nomination of Councillor Peter Watts as the Fire and Rescue Authority's Health and Safety representative. Discussions have now taken place with Councillor Watts and he will be attending future meetings.
4. A review of the previous quarter's health and safety (H&S) performance data was discussed in detail, followed by a review of the recent H&S investigations. No significant issues had arisen.
5. The H&S Working Group (which is a sub group of the Health and Safety Liaison Panel) has been tasked with formulating the training requirements, budgetary needs and training plans for 2012/13 for all H&S related matters. The group were also asked to review the Lone Working Policy, which had been highlighted in a recent investigation as requiring a review. It should also be noted that a significant amount of H&S related training was undertaken in 2011 and there are now relatively high numbers of trained staff throughout the organisation.
6. Progress on two recent serious H&S related issues were discussed. The 135 ladder incident, where another Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) suffered a catastrophic failure, has been reviewed; the Panel felt the Service had put in adequate measures to address this potential risk.
7. The breathing apparatus (BA) related issues from June have now been concluded and the Panel was satisfied with the progress and response. A few minor items are outstanding and will be followed up in the near future and reported back to the H&SLP.

8. The Panel was asked to consider how, and if, the Service should implement any form of testing for substance abuse, particularly after any accident. This matter will form part of a wider discussion at future meetings.
9. A further review and update of Reported Incidents of Abuse to Staff was held with no significant issues being identified.
10. A new system of electronically monitoring all types of reported accidents and incidents was discussed with the Panel and it was generally felt this was a positive step to ensure that these matters were thoroughly addressed and dealt with. A slight concern was that minor matters may result in a level of increased bureaucracy and this point was noted.
11. A brief discussion was held concerning the best way try to address the number of minor vehicle accidents which, although not excessive, were costly and had the potential to cause injury. The Panel agreed that a firmer managerial approach was needed but drivers were not to be penalised as this would be counter-productive.

### **Financial Considerations**

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Yes	Paras 5,7,8,11

### **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	Yes	Entire document

### **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).	Yes	Paras 5,7,8
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	Entire document
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	Yes	Entire Document
<b>Consultation with Representative Bodies</b>	No	

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