

HEALTH AND SAFETY BRIEFING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Whilst the Chief Executive and senior managers of the Council have overall accountability for health and safety, the Elected Members play an important role in setting the strategic direction, scrutinizing plans and influencing the overall culture for safety management within the authority. A point brought into sharp focus in comments made by the Judge during legal action following the fatal outbreak of Legionnaires disease traced to an arts centre run by Barrow Borough Council.

“The (health and safety) failings were not only at the lowest levels... those failings went all the way, I am afraid to say, to the top of the council in terms of its serving officers. It is likely they went beyond the officers to the Councillors” – Mr Justice Burnton following the Legionella outbreak in Barrow (2006).

The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) has recently published guidance, supported by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), aimed specifically at Elected Members. Entitled ‘**Think about health and safety**’ (June 2009), the guide contains timely advice on what members of local authorities need to know and encourages them to consider the impact of getting health and safety wrong and their role in how to get it right.

Gallagher Bassett has developed a briefing session for Elected Members based around the contents of this guide, supplemented with information on key legislative requirements and the key success factors for embedding a strong safety management culture.

Objectives

The principal objectives of this briefing are to provide Elected Members with an understanding of the:-

- Key legal requirements
- Impact of health and safety failures
- Critical success factors for a good safety management strategy
- Their role in implementing a sensible approach to risk management

Who Should Attend

- Elected Members

Duration

2 ½ hours