

<b>Report to</b>	Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Date of meeting</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Julie Matthews / Gary Williams
<b>Head of Service</b>	Catrin Roberts
<b>Report author</b>	Gerry Lapington
<b>Title</b>	Annual Corporate Health and Safety report

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. Annual Corporate Health and Safety report

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1. To provide information regarding Health and Safety management within DCC during 2021-2022

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1. That the committee reviews the contents of the report and comments on them.

## **4. Report details**

4.1. Summary. The details related to this summary are available as Appendix 1.

The overall assessment of DCC's implementation of H&S systems and of employee engagement in H&S has not changed and are both given medium assurance (yellow). This means that although there is room for improvement, H&S management systems that we have encountered are generally developed and recorded. Significant hazards are generally identified and managed to minimise risk. Employees are generally engaged in the development and use of H&S management systems.

The Health safety and Welfare culture in DCC has been on a continuous improvement path for a number of years. The Covid 19 pandemic was a significant challenge to the

way we carried out our business and managed workplace safety, and the ensuing “New Ways of Working” has continued this challenge. In response to the challenge we have developed an action plan to help us back onto the continuous improvement path.

The accident \ incident count for the year and a half shows a comparable level of reports to the years prior to Covid.

The HSE carried out an unannounced visit to Meifod Wood Products to look at dust controls in a wood working environment. The inspector identified that the workplace was generally well managed although two dust related concerns were raised. The concerns we dealt with promptly by the onsite management team and the HSE has closed the incident with no action being taken and no follow up required.

We had an “Educational Visit” incident in November 2022 where a pupil and teaching assistant were separated from their main group and became lost during a gorge walk. The incident was investigated by CH&S. The outcome of the investigation identified some learning points for our schools and the event provider. The action plan put in place following the investigation identified the need for the Evolve process to be reviewed, the provider to review their own processes, training for school staff and a review of the management process surrounding educational visits in schools. This work is currently underway

Hand Arm Vibration monitoring has continued through the reporting period with some identified difficulties, in light of this, the process was reviewed and an action plan was taken to SLT who supported the identified actions. The action plan is currently being implemented. There have been no additional diagnoses of HAV’s or Carpel Tunnel Syndrome being reported to CH&S. The current level of risk associated with employee exposure to HAV has been assessed as medium assurance.

4.2. Health and Safety Specialist support in DCC is provided by:

Corporate Support Services: People. Corporate Health and Safety:

- 1 Team Manager \ Advisor
- 1 Senior Officer \ Advisor
- 1 Officer \ Advisor
- 1 Assistant Advisor

- 1 Road Risk Officer \ Advisor
- 1 Technical Officer (part time, 3 day week)

Service based officers:

Corporate Support Services: Performance, Digital and Assets

- 1 Construction specialist Officer \ Advisor
- A buildings compliance team looking after facility safety including gas, electricity, water systems, asbestos and fire.

There are also a number of union Health and Safety representatives who work throughout DCC.

4.3. Accident incident statistics for:

- The financial year 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023 included as Appendix 2.
- The financial year 01.04.2023 to 20.10.2023 included as Appendix 3.
- The trend for 2020, 2021 and 2022 are included as Appendix 4

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

5.1. Good Health & Safety standards are expected in all areas controlled by the Local Authority and underpins all Corporate Priorities. If we are properly managing Health Safety and Welfare in our workplaces it supports the aspiration of a well-run council and indicates a culture where people matter.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

**Sub-heading (delete as needed)**

6.1. There is no additional cost to properly managing Health Safety and Welfare in our workplaces, in fact it can help with efficiency.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. This is an annual update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. N/A

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. N/A

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. This is an annual report looking back on the last financial

**11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. This is a Governance and Audit report, and decisions deemed necessary rest with the committee.