

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Consultation Exercise on the main proposals for inclusion in HSENI's next Corporate Plan (2023-2028)</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Environmental Services Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Provide a consultation response
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council response to the consultation exercise.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 District Councils and HSENI both enforce workplace health and safety law with responsibility divided by sector.
- 2.2 The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is in the process of developing its seventh Corporate Plan (CP) to cover the period 2023-2028.
- 2.3 The new Corporate Plan will identify the issues HSENI will focus on during the lifetime of the plan and outlines the specific outcomes which HSENI, working in partnership with industry, aims to achieve.
- 2.4 HSENI plan to have three major themes in years one, three and five of their new Corporate Plan. The three annual cross cutting themes aim to tackle a work activity known to be a cause of fatalities, serious injury or ill-health and will involve a wide range of activities such as a marketing campaign (media / social media / radio / TV / website etc.), group activities (inspection blitz / awareness raising), speaking events etc.
- 2.5 HSENI will chose the themes based on priorities, statistics, evidence, emerging issues and trends. HSENI have chosen workplace transport safety as their year one theme and will select the themes for year three and as they evaluate data but intend to include health as one of the themes. HSENI plan a strong element of partnership throughout this work cycle.
- 2.6 HSENI's proposed sectoral priorities which will be their focus over the next five years is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.7 Attached as Appendix 2 is a suggested response to the consultation. The closing date for submission of responses to HSENI was 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Due to the time constraints of meeting timetables this has been submitted as an officer response pending endorsement by Committee and approval by Council.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council endorses the response.

**Sectoral priorities for the new corporate plan (2023-2028)**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Priorities (rank ordered)</b>
Agriculture	Older farmers
	Animals
	Work at height / Falls
	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
	Slurry
	Children
	Lung disease
Chemicals market compliance	Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)
	Biocides
	Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulations (CLP)
	Online sales
Construction	Work at height / Falls
	Slips/Trips/Falls – site tidiness
	Lung disease (asbestos / silica)
	Promotion of Construction, Design and Management Regulations (CDM)
	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
Docks	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Lifting operations
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
Extractive industries	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
	Lung disease
	Excavations and tips
	Mining and exploration drilling
Fairgrounds	Ride inspection / testing / operation
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
	Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
Gas	Substandard work
	Illegal workers
Major hazards	Preparedness and prevention for major incidents
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Priorities (rank ordered)</b>
Manufacturing	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
	Lifting operations
	Lung disease
Product safety market compliance	Supply of machinery
	Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
	Supply of gas appliances
	Supply of electrical equipment (inc. online strategy)
	Supply of pressure equipment
	Supply of lifts
	Supply of pressure vessels
	Supply of transportable pressure equipment
	Supply of ATEX equipment
	Online sales
Public sector	Slips/Trips/Falls
	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Violence / Assaults on staff
	Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) (handling)
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
Transport	Slips/Trips/Falls
	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Work at height / Falls
	Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
Utilities	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
	Work at height / Falls
	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
Waste	Workplace transport (inc. segregations etc.)
	Machinery (inc. guarding, isolation & maintenance)
	Lung disease
	Slips/Trips/Falls
Workplace Health	Lung disease
	Occupational cancer
	Stress / mental wellbeing
	Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
Cross sectoral	New and emerging technologies

## HSENI Corporate Plan 2023-2028

### Measures

1. HSENI is the regional body responsible for the regulation of health and safety at work in Northern Ireland. It sets and secures compliance with the necessary health and safety standards. Employers, self-employed and employees all play a part in complying with those standards. Society's perception, the portrayal of health and safety in the media and the deterrent effect of sentencing in the courts are all key ingredients of success. In this context the 'measures of success' are really a reflection on the collective effort of all parties. We are confident that we have identified the correct sectoral priorities and that we deploy our staff to meet the demands but we cannot alone achieve success in reducing injuries at work.
2. At a macro level, measuring success in health and safety has traditionally been done through tracking statistics in respect of fatalities, major injuries and over three day injuries. These measures are not without difficulties such as under reporting etc. but over time they reflect general trends and are a useful indicator of success of initiatives, education and enforcement activity.
3. Since 2000 we have seen a steady downward trend in major and over three day injuries but fatalities and serious injuries are more random with some years giving low numbers and others considerably higher numbers. In our current corporate plan we set target percentage reductions across all measures. In our new corporate plan we are proposing measures which show a commitment to a continued reduction but better reflect the collective nature of the effort required. Our proposed measures will track trends rather than set targets for reductions. They will be tracked using the statutory reporting regime under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (RIDDOR).
4. The proposed measures are:
  - a. **A reduction in the number of serious and fatal accidents compared to the average in the previous CP;**
  - b. **A reduction in the number of major accidents compared to the average in the previous CP; and**
  - c. **A reduction in the number of over three day accidents compared to the average in the previous CP.**

Do the three measures provide a realistic goal of incident reduction and also reflect the collective nature of the effort required to achieve success? Are there other measures you would like to see included?

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council does not have any comments on whether the measure's goals are realistic and reflect the collective effort required to achieve success.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has no recommendations on other additional measures at this stage.

### Outputs

5. HSENI will utilise a number of strategies and interventions over the period of the next corporate plan. These will be a mix of:
  - a. Site visits / inspections
  - b. Investigations
  - c. Initiatives / blitzes
  - d. Complaints handling
  - e. Advisory visits
  - f. Advisory contacts
  - g. Information and advice via website
  - h. Information and advice via social media
  - i. Information and advice via traditional media
  - j. Information and advice via speaking engagements
  - k. Campaigns etc.
6. We will measure and track these activities on our case management system.
7. We propose the following output:
  - a. **80,000 interventions which will include 25,000 site visits.**
8. Based on our current and projected available resources and historical data we believe this output is challenging.

Does the output (**80,000 interventions which will include 25,000 site visits**) demonstrate a commitment to a high level of output across all sectors delivered through a wide range of activities? Are there other outputs you would like to see included?

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agrees.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council would like to see partnership working with other enforcement agencies (such as District Councils) and trade bodies included.

9. HSENI will develop and deliver three annual cross-cutting themes to tackle a work activity known to be a cause of fatalities, serious injury or ill-health. They will be run in years one, three and five of the CP. These will be a mix of:
  - a. Marketing campaigns (media / social media / radio / TV / website etc.)
  - b. Group activities (inspection blitzes / awareness raising)
  - c. Speaking events (Public and company level) etc.
10. The choice of subject will be based on priority topics / statistics / evidence / emerging issues and trends.
11. The themes will have to be broad in nature to allow all sectors to make meaningful contributions which will be tailored to their industries.
12. This approach will require a significant resource and financial commitment across all five years of the corporate plan and is predicated on the finance being available in all years.
13. In year one the theme will be *workplace transport* as this continues to be a difficult issue in almost all sectors and the cause of serious injuries and fatalities across a number of sectors. We will use year two to plan and to prepare all materials etc. for year three (this process will be repeated for years four and five). We will decide on the year three and five themes in the preceding year, again taking cognisance of statistics and trends etc.
14. We propose the following output:
  - a. **Deliver three annual cross-cutting themes to tackle a work activity known to be a cause of fatalities, serious injury or ill-health.**
15. Based on our current and projected available resources and historical data we believe this output is challenging but it will act as a catalyst for all sectors to bring a focus to a high priority issue.

Do you agree that the output (***Deliver three annual cross-cutting themes to tackle a work activity known to be a cause of fatalities, serious injury or ill-health***) is a good means of raising the profile and tackling high profile issues across all work sectors?

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agrees.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is of the view that when choosing annual cross-cutting themes consideration should be given to themes from the joint strategy with District Councils and issues within the District Council enforced sectors.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council welcomes the commitment given to focusing on workplace health and would recommend seeking input from the Workplace Health Group on this aspect.

Are there particular themes you would like to be considered for years three and five?

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council would suggest that manual handling/musculoskeletal disorders be considered as a theme.

### Sectoral priorities

16. It has never been possible for HSENI to deploy resources to each and every hazard and risk in workplaces. The responsibility for risk assessment must be carried out each and every day by those carrying out work activities in order to consider and properly manage and mitigate those risks. Like all other organisations, we must prioritise which activities we put our efforts into. In the current CP our focus is on those activities which are known to be associated with fatal and serious outcomes. We propose to continue this approach in our new CP.
17. Serious injuries include: brain injuries; spinal cord injuries; amputations; asphyxia; poisoning; blindness; multiple fractures; occupational cancers etc. These are by definition life changing and will affect the injured party, their family, co-workers and will likely have long lasting impacts on their health. Often these incidents are not discussed but they can be as traumatic as a fatality for all those around the injured party. For this reason, we want to do everything possible to reduce such injuries.
18. We have set out our proposed sectoral priorities in Annex B. We have used three measures to develop the sectoral priorities:
  - a. Statistics from HSENI's Case Management System (CMS) (RIDDOR);
  - b. Views of the Heads of Groups (HoGs) and operational teams; and
  - c. Cross reference with the Health & Safety Executive in GB (HSE) & the Health & Safety Authority (HSA) in Rol.
19. We believe the above methodology is robust and takes account of not just the statistics which do not give a complete picture, but also the thinking of our sister organisations and importantly the knowledge of our staff who have in depth understanding of their sectors. Sectoral intelligence gained by our staff on the ground, intelligence fed in through complaints and other means, gives us a strong insight into the factors affecting safety on a day to day basis.
20. You will note that, as in the current CP, we will maintain a strong focus on workplace health and this will be reflected in the sectoral priorities. Health remains a significant issue with major personal and societal costs and we must help organisations ensure that workplaces do not make people ill but are actually places which keep people healthy. Long term conditions affecting health not only remove the person from being an economic earner but the other side of the coin is the often significant long term cost to the health sector to care for that person as their health declines.
21. We also want to hear from you and what you believe are the priorities in your industry.

What industry / work sector are you from?

District Council

Do you think the draft Corporate Plan focuses on the main health and safety issues within your sector?

Yes



Do you agree that we should maintain a focus on those work activities which are associated with the most 'Serious' outcomes?

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agrees however going forward there should be an effort made to measure long-term ill-health caused by work activities, so that it is not only injuries and fatalities that are considered.

Do you believe that our proposed sectoral priorities strike a balance between safety and occupational health?

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agrees.

Other

Please provide any additional comments or feedback on the proposed Corporate Plan.

In terms of Product Safety/ market compliance Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is of the view that consideration should be given to the types of market surveillance/ initiatives which could be included. Council believes it is important to co-ordinate this area of work with District Council co-enforcers. Joint training and shared learning in this area could be beneficial.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is of the opinion that there should be some mention of good partnership working with District Councils within the proposed Corporate Plan. HSENI works with Councils through the Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group and Joint Strategy to achieve greater promotion of safety and health themes to workplaces across all sectors.

Post comments to:  
Corporate Support Group  
HSENI  
83 Ladas Drive  
Belfast BT6 9FR

Closing date for comments is 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022