

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
7 April 2008

From: Lead Member for Environment Councillor O Hedley

Ward Member: All

**Subject: HEALTH AND SAFETY CONDITIONS AT THE STREETCARE
GARAGE DEPOT STAINTON GROVE**

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Members have requested periodic reports relating to health and safety issues at Stainton Grove Street Care depot. This report gives an update on the current situation at the garage depot.

1.2 Health and safety conditions at the Stainton Grove garage require remedial work and an action plan is in place to accelerate progress in this area. The recycling ramp, in particular, requires attention and funds have been identified for repair work. The Executive Committee should be aware of the health and safety situation at the garage depot and the action plan for improvement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that

2.1.1 this report be accepted by the Executive Committee

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE KEY PRIORITIES/AMBITIONS

3.1 Priority: to make Teesdale a cleaner, greener place

3.2 Ambition: improve the cleanliness of the district

3.3 Outcome: improve refuse and recycling service delivery

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The garage depot at Stainton Grove comprises several buildings of post-war construction, located in a large concrete yard. The buildings house the garage and office along with staff welfare facilities. Other buildings are used for vehicle and stock storage. The buildings and facilities have not evolved to meet the requirements of a modern waste management service and require attention. A private business is co-

located with the streetcare service and shares vehicular access across the yard area.

- 4.2 A ramp was constructed in 2003 to accommodate the newly formed recycling service. It was used for recycling tipping. The council's health and safety officer was involved in safety investigation work at the time of construction.
- 4.3 A health and safety inspection of the garage depot, excluding the ramp, was commissioned by the Council and was undertaken by Stockton Borough Council's Health and Safety Section, that were contracted to fulfil Teesdale District Council's corporate health and safety function, on 8th August 2006. The report identified 30 action points for attention.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The new Assistant Director – Environmental Services (AD) was appointed on 1st May 2007 and inherited the existing issues.
- 5.2 Attempts to secure the services of an operations waste manager, from 1st May 2007 to the present day, through a partnership arrangement proved unsuccessful. It was expected that part of the role of this post would be health and safety management. This resulted in an increased workload for both the AD and the streetcare manager, consequently reducing progress on priority health and safety matters.
- 5.3 However, to deal with this constructively, the AD prepared a health and safety action plan and this is now being implemented. All 30 action points listed in the 'Safety Audit/Inspection of the Teesdale Garage Facility and Associated Offices' mentioned in paragraph 4.3 are being checked and remedial work undertaken, health and safety refresher training will be provided for all streetcare staff, and remedial work will be undertaken on the tipping ramp.

6.0 FUTURE ACTION

- 6.1 The corporate risk presented by the existing health and safety conditions at the garage depot must be properly managed. A monitoring and corrective action system will be installed coupled with a review procedure. The former will be done monthly, and the latter quarterly, by the AD. A quarterly report will be sent to Corporate Management Team (CMT), commencing in the first quarter of 2008 – 2009. An internal inspection system will be established.
- 6.2 The resources originally targeted for partnership working will now be used to recruit a contractor on a temporary basis until the permanent part-time position can be filled. Part of the contractor's role will be to maintain and improve health and safety standards at the garage depot. An appointment is expected to be made by 31st March 2008.

- 6.3 It is anticipated that the increased emphasis on health and safety in the daily work of streetcare staff will impact on their working practices and service response. This will be monitored by the streetcare manager.
- 6.4 Garage building improvements are currently unclear as this is linked with other land purchase matters currently being examined by the council. Building safety matters will be identified and reported for action through the inspection process.

7.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications: The strategic waste manager position is a permanent post with a funding of £23.5K; the ramp and resurfacing work has attracted a £7K fund.

7.2 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications
The Council fails to provide an effective waste management service to protect both public health and the environment.	Reputation	Adverse publicity and failure to satisfy customer demand leading to criticism of the Council.
The Council fails to protect the health, safety and welfare of its employees at work and others affected by their work activity	Legal/Reputation	Employees injured at work – staff absence, compensation claims, and criminal prosecution. Similar for injuries to non-employees. Adverse publicity.

7.3 Equality and Diversity: None

7.4 Human Resources: None

7.5 Community Safety: None

7.6 Legal Issues: The council has a statutory duty to protect the health safety and welfare of employees at work and conditions at the garage depot must achieve this minimum standard. The council has a legal duty to provide a waste collection service and this is facilitated by providing an operational base that is fit for the purpose.

Background papers:

- 1. Health and Safety at Work etc, Act 1974**
- 2. Environmental Protection Act 1990**

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