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**Report to Place Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 23 January 2020**

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**Subject: Joint Statement of Commitment between Local Authority and HSE Regulatory Services**

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**Report by: Strategic Director (Place)**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. To advise the Committee about the Statement of Commitment entered into between Local Authorities and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. That the Committee endorses the Statement of Commitment attached at Appendix 1.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. This Statement of Commitment does not relate to the Council's responsibilities in terms of its own duties as an employer under health & safety regulation. It refers instead to the Council's statutory duty as a regulator of health and safety in approximately 700 local businesses.
- 3.2. Clackmannanshire Council has always taken its statutory duty in relation to health & safety regulation very seriously. The Council recognises that close liaison with the HSE and other local authority regulators is key to providing good health and safety regulation in Clackmannanshire.
- 3.3. In local authority enforced businesses national figures show failures in the management of health and safety that result 100,000 illnesses, 5,000 major injuries and 10 deaths a year. The statement reflects the commitment local authorities have to working with the HSE to provide sustainable enforcement, establishing joint working arrangements and providing consistency of high quality regulation. It has been agreed between the HSE, Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland, the Local Government Association in England and the Welsh Local Government Association.
- 3.4. The Statement of Commitment outlines how local authorities and the HSE will share information and liaise with each other to deliver a consistent approach to the regulation of health and safety throughout Great Britain. It provides background to what the HSE and local authorities will do jointly as co-

regulators, as well as independently, to provide targeted and sustainable health & safety enforcement. It has been developed as part of the work of the strategic group overseeing the HSE/local authority regulatory partnership.

#### 4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. Nil.

#### 5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4. *Staffing*

#### 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

#### 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Our communities are safer  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced                             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 : Statement of Commitment Between: Local Authority and HSE Regulatory Services.

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

### Author(s)

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Andrew Crawford	Team Leader Environmental Health	2581

### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	





# Statement of commitment between: Local Authority and HSE Regulatory Services

This joint statement of commitment (SoC), agreed by local authority (LA) representative bodies and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in March 2019, sets out our shared vision for an ongoing LA/HSE co-regulatory partnership. Ensuring LAs and HSE work together as effective, modern and professional regulators - delivering the positive benefits of efficient, world leading workplace health and safety, to achieve:

- Sustainable arrangements for the enforcement of work related health and safety.
- Established joint working arrangements resulting in effective engagement, consultation and communication.
- Consistency of high quality regulation across HSE and LA enforced businesses.

This shared SoC is aimed at Councillors, LA Chief Executives and their Heads of Regulatory Services. It outlines how LA senior managers and HSE will work together, to achieve sustainable future delivery of effective workplace health and safety enforcement in Great Britain (GB).

## Current position

LAs are a key part of the health and safety system in GB. They have a statutory duty under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to 'make adequate provision' for health and safety enforcement in their area, as set out in the 'National LA Enforcement Code' (the Code) ([www.hse.gov.uk/lau/la-enforcement-code.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/la-enforcement-code.htm)).

LAs enforce workplace health and safety in two thirds of all business premises, around half of the total GB workforce. LAs predominantly cover the retail, consumer services, entertainment and warehousing/supply chain sectors.

Currently failures in the management of health and safety in LA enforced business sectors result in around 10 deaths, 5000 major injuries and over 100,000 new cases of ill health a year. Many of those harmed are members of the public/children, or vulnerable workers not provided with reasonable workplace protection.

HSE provides national direction via the the Code and its supporting documentation e.g. annually updated targeting advice ([www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/67-2.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/lacs/67-2.htm)) supports LAs to develop locally responsive sustainable delivery plans, using the most current intelligence and regulatory practice.

Effective management of health and safety brings direct benefits to the local community, by:

- Reducing work related death, injuries and ill health.
- Reducing the need for local public health and support for those recovering from injury and ill health.
- Reducing the rate of business failure due to business outages caused by incidents and harm to staff, or the loss of reputation.

This SoC was developed as part of the on-going work of the strategic group overseeing the HSE/LA co-regulatory partnership (HELA) and the supporting Practitioner's Forum. It also has the endorsement of the Local Government Association ([www.local.gov.uk/](http://www.local.gov.uk/)), Welsh Local Government Association ([www.wlga.gov.uk/](http://www.wlga.gov.uk/)) and Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland ([www.socoehs.com/](http://www.socoehs.com/)) and recognises that:

- LAs must target and prioritise regulatory resources to meet their legal duty to enforce health and safety;
- Continued delivery of effective co-regulation will require ongoing evolution in both the LA and HSE approaches to regulatory delivery, and
- The HSE and LA co-regulatory partnership plays a vital role in delivering the 'Help GB Work Well' strategy. ([campaigns.hse.gov.uk/hgbww/](http://campaigns.hse.gov.uk/hgbww/))

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This SoC does not relate to an LA's own responsibilities as a health and safety dutyholder. Information to support LAs as employers, service providers and procurers/commissioners of goods and services can be found on the HSE website ([www.hse.gov.uk/services/localgovernment/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/localgovernment/index.htm)).

# Joint LA/HSE Commitments to Targeted Sustainable Health and Safety Enforcement

## What LAs & HSE will do together as co-regulatory partners to #HelpGBworkwell

### LAs & HSE will provide an effective regulatory framework by:

- Sharing information, to make sure we take decisions on the best available evidence.
- Delivering risk based, targeted frontline interventions.
- Maintaining liaison and effective two-way communication via joint representation at county liaison groups as well as the joint LA/HSE HELA and Practitioner forums.

### LAs & HSE will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- Delivering a consistent approach to the enforcement of work related health and safety across GB in line with the principles of the Regulator's Code ([www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code)).

### LAs & HSE will lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety by:

- Promoting the benefits of proportionate health and safety in their frontline engagement.
- Working together as co-regulatory partners to influence businesses as part of a national strategy.
- Using the latest in behavioural insight to develop new ways to change business behaviour.

## What LAs will do as independent co-regulators to #HelpGBworkwell

### LAs will provide an effective regulatory framework by:

- Providing the competency, capacity, resource and support to fulfil their delivery plans.
- Working with other LAs to peer review activities and promote better health and safety outcomes.

### LAs will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- Developing and implementing local delivery plans which clearly link to national and local priorities.
- Using national and local intelligence to effectively target poor performing sectors.
- Annually reporting their health and safety enforcement activity to HSE.

### LAs will lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety by:

- Leading and engaging with their local business community to promote health and safety priorities and adopting the "Better Business for All" approach where relevant and sustainable.
- Sharing relevant local intelligence with HSE to inform the national perspective.
- Championing their role as health and safety regulators.

## What HSE will do as the national policy lead and a co-regulator to #HelpGBworkwell

### HSE will provide an effective regulatory framework by:

- Reviewing the effectiveness of GB's occupational health and safety system.
- Providing LA regulators with access to topic specific materials and technical / forensic support.
- Monitoring and reporting on LA regulatory activity to the HSE's Board and other stakeholders.

### HSE will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- Setting national regulatory priorities and the overarching strategic direction.
- Sharing expertise, practice and supporting materials to promote consistent/proportionate regulation.
- Supporting LAs to develop effective intervention plans by providing targeting guidance based upon up-to-date information and intelligence via targeting guidance which accompanies the Code.

### HSE will lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety by:

- Co-ordinating national engagement and promotion of proportionate health and safety and using feedback from LAs to inform the development of national priorities in the LA enforced sectors.
- Providing support for LA local and national regulatory liaison and industry sector working groups.
- Championing the LA role as health and safety regulator.