



<b>Subject:</b>	Collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and District Councils and continuation of funding for a joint Post
<b>Date:</b>	9 January 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	David Cuthbert, City Protection manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>After Council Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>
<p><b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If 'No' please see Note 2</i></p>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek continued support from Belfast City Council for a 2-year extension to the current contract for the Health and Safety Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) post, until the end of the 2025/2026 financial year. The purpose of this multiagency joint funded role is to enhance collaborative working between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and district councils

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee approve the continued contribution to the joint partner funding for the Health and Safety Partner liaison Officer post until the end of the 2025/2026 financial year.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	On 8th March 2022, the People and Communities Committee agreed to a 2 year extension of support and a small funding contribution, for continuation of a Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) role.
3.2	This officer resource, is currently hosted by Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council, and was originally created in 2010 to ensure the effective partnership working relationships and operational delivery of the joint Health and Safety strategy between the local authorities across Northern Ireland and the HSENI. Please see appendix 1 for H&ES Committee minutes of 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010 providing background to necessity for PLO post.
3.3	Correspondence has been received from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council seeking support from Belfast City Council for a further 2 year extension to the current arrangements.
3.4	As previously highlighted to the Committee in March 2022, the main purpose of the Partnership Liaison Officer remains as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in the continuing development and implementation of the Strategic Framework for Partnership Working by building effective working relationships and processes.</li> <li>• Co-ordinate the delivery of specific aspects of partnership arrangements such as joint planning, joint enforcement initiatives and campaigns, joint training and innovative ways of targeting resources more effectively.</li> <li>• Monitor the output of these defined areas of joint work.</li> <li>• Liaise with district councils and their representative bodies and partners on issues relating to workplace health and safety and provide a district council perspective on the Partnership Team.</li> </ul>

<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support district councils in meeting their partnership commitments, particularly when developing business plans etc.</li> <li>• Act as an effective communication channel between District Councils and HSENI.</li> <li>• Ensure that district council interests are fed into the joint planning processes.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure continuity of the post beyond March 2024, and to facilitate retention of the current postholder, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have requested that Councils confirm support for a 2 year extension.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> Belfast City Council's contribution to the funding of this post will be approximately £6,000 per annum which is included within existing budget. There are no human resource implications as Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council will continue to be the employing authority and recover costs from the other Councils.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u> None.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Link to Agenda Item 4b of HES Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 providing background to necessity for PLO post  <a href="#">Agenda for Pre April-2015 Health and Environmental Services Committee on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2010, 4.30 pm - Belfast City Council (www.internalminutes)</a></p>