



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Health and Environmental Services Committee
Subject:	Update on Fatal Accident at Dargan Road Landfill Site
Date:	5 th November, 2008
Reporting Officer:	William Francey, Director of Health and Environmental Services, Ext. 3260
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Relevant Background Information

As Members will recall a fatal accident occurred at the North Foreshore on 4th September, 2006 while the site was still being operated as a landfill. The Committee received its last update report on this matter at its meeting in May, 2008, when it was confirmed that the incident was the subject of an ongoing formal investigation by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. That investigation has been concluded and the Council has been served with papers which initiate a prosecution upon indictment against it in the Crown court.

Key Issues

It is appropriate at the outset to acknowledge the terrible tragedy that occurred when an employee of a firm, Waste Beater, lost his life as a result of the accident at the landfill site.

The matter has been the subject of both external and internal investigation. As a result of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland's investigation of the matter a prosecution upon indictment against the council has been initiated. The first stage in this process will be a preliminary enquiry in the Magistrates court. This is the first stage in the indictment process and its purpose is to ascertain if there is sufficient evidence to refer the matter to the Crown court.

Further details of the legal process, its potential outcome, the investigation findings and the council's action in relation to health and safety, both at the landfill site and generally since the accident, will be provided at your meeting. The Director of Legal Services will be in attendance at your meeting to address these matters.

Briefings for the party group leaders are ongoing.

Recommendation

This report is presented to provide further information for the Committee regarding this tragic accident and to provide Members with information about the prosecution that is to be directed against the Council. The Committee is requested therefore to note this report.