



Title of Report:	Health and Safety Partnership Liaison Officer
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	10th May 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Coordinating a strategic approach to the delivery of Health & Safety Enforcement activities
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Approximately £5000 per annum
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	21401
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's continued support of the shared Health and Safety Partnership Liaison Officer resource.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Partnership Liaison Officer (PLO) post is a joint resource created to ensure effective partnership-working relationships and operational delivery of the joint Health & Safety Strategy between local authorities across Northern Ireland and the HSENI- saving lives not stopping them. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is the employing authority and the post is funded by contributions from the remaining Councils and HSENI.

2.2 Further to committee report ES181002 and CM181023 Council has previously supported the post. The current postholder took up position in July 2020 via a 2-year Interchange secondment, with the possibility of extension.

2.3 During the pandemic the post offered support to the health and safety team on covid related work, provided a point of contact between The Executive Office and other groups dealing with the pandemic and eased the burden on Council Health and Safety teams by filtering and sharing information, advice, data and statistics.

2.4 As COVID restrictions have eased the PLO will build on the partnerships between HSENI and Councils to deliver on the required Health and Safety needs across Northern Ireland.

2.5 To progress a 2-year extension to the current postholder's contract the following requirements have been identified:

- All 12 partners (11 Councils and HSENI) must be committed to the post.
- Costs associated with the post must be divided equally amongst the 12 partners.
- HSENI will continue to host the PLO in Ladas Drive and give day-to-day management support (dependent on COVID requirements for home working).
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council will continue to be the employing authority and recover costs as previous.
- A review of the effectiveness of the PLO will be conducted in the second year to inform whether the post should continue and if so in what form.

2.6 There is current budgetary provision within the service area to support this post.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that Council continue to support this post until the end of the 2023-2024 financial year at which time it will be reviewed.