

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 JULY 2009

HEALTH AND SAFETY – PROCUREMENT OF EXTERNAL CONSULTANT

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval to appoint Chalker Training Ltd to undertake a compliance review of the Council's health and safety arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In approving the 2009-2010 Corporate Health and Safety Action Plan, Cabinet on 17 June 2009 noted that it was proposed to engage an external health and safety consultant to carry out a compliance review of the Council's health and safety arrangements.

- 2.2 Cabinet further noted that the compliance review would focus principally on the following matters:

- a to ensure that there is alignment between policy and practice;
- b the efficiency of current corporate and departmental action plans;
- c the adequacy of the Council's current dedicated health and safety resource.

- 2.3 During 2008-2009 the Council organised a number of training sessions on the Corporate Homicide Act 2007 for Chief Officers, senior managers and Elected Members. These sessions were delivered by Peter Ralston of Chalker Training Ltd. The content and delivery of the training was praised highly by all who attended.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 In view of the feedback from the training sessions referred to in para 2.3 above and having regard to Peter Ralston's experience as both a former Health and Safety Executive Inspector and a practicing barrister it is proposed to appoint Chalker Training Ltd with a provision that Peter Ralston undertake the compliance review outlined in para 2.2 above.

- 3.2 Chalker Training is a Health and Safety Consultancy based in Warwick which provides a range of consultancy and training services. Peter Ralston is the Managing Director and Principal Consultant.

3.3 The work programme will last 21 days and at its end a detailed prioritised action plan will be produced.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the work programme will be £13,650 and can be met from existing resources.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In terms of paragraph 20(1) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, Cabinet approval is required both in respect of the negotiation of contractual terms and of the organisation with whom the contract is to be negotiated. These proposals are accordingly submitted to Cabinet in accordance with these provisions.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- i approve the recommendation that Chalker Training Ltd be appointed to provide consultancy services relating to health and safety for a period of 21 days in accordance with paragraph 20(1) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts; and
- ii otherwise note the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support
24 June 2009

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Corporate Health and Safety Action Plan 2009–2010 – Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to Cabinet – 17 June 2009.