

## HEALTH AND SAFETY ACCIDENT STATISTICS

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### 1.0 **Purpose of the report**

1.1 This report provides an overview of the number of accidents that have occurred within the Council over the past two years.

### 2.0 **Background**

2.1 The Council completed a review of its Health & Safety arrangements in 2006. As a result of this, the responsibility for corporate health & safety matters was moved to the Human Resources Unit (now Organisational Development) and resources made available to appoint a full time Officer. This Officer started in post from January 2007.

2.2 As well as providing advice and training on health and safety matters across all Council services this Officer is also responsible for producing management information on the number of accidents. These are collated on a regular basis and reported to the joint Health & Safety Committee. This Committee reviews the accidents and makes recommendations on any action or learning that needs to be implemented.

2.3 The Director of Community Services chairs the Health & Safety Committee. Officers from across the Council also attend the meetings along with trades unions health & safety representatives. The Committee meets every 6 weeks and a review of accidents are a permanent agenda item, along with risk assessments, training and health & safety audit reports.

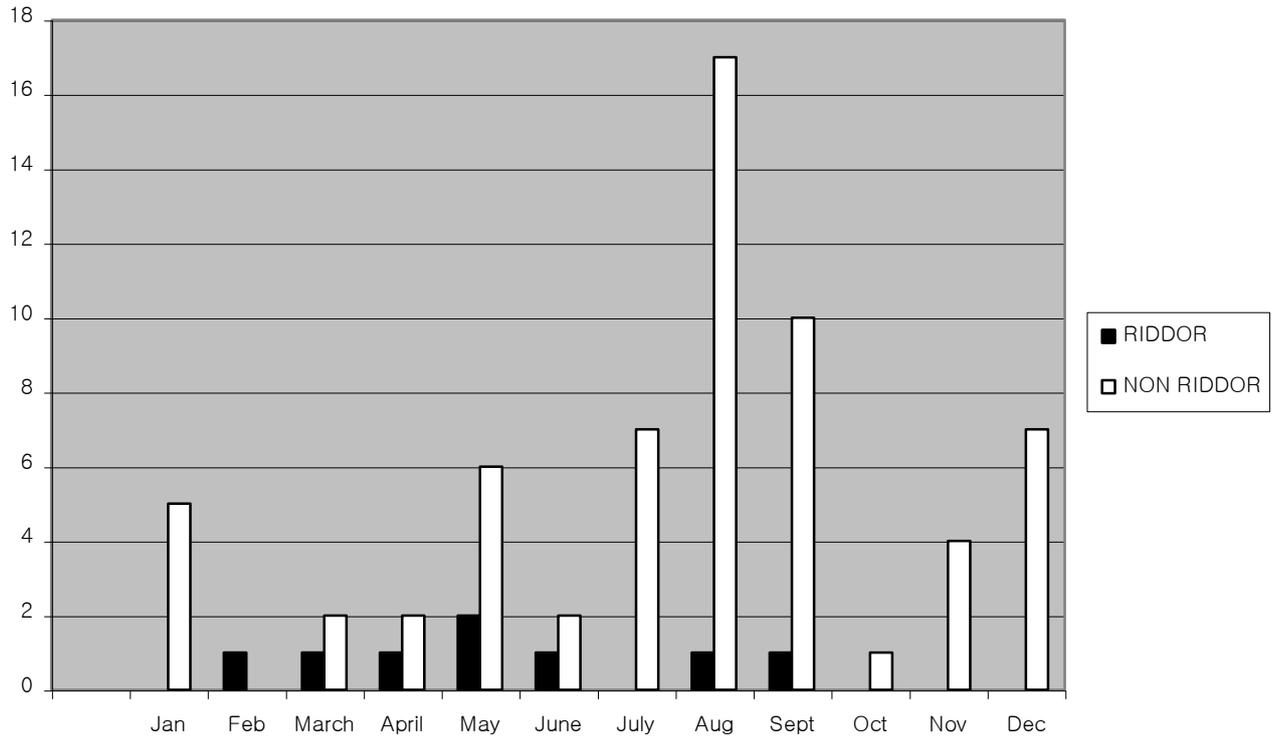
2.4 The diagrams that follow show the number of accidents for the whole of 2007 and 2008 up to and including September 2008.

2.5 We split the accidents into RIDDOR and Non RIDDOR accidents. RIDDOR stands for Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 and covers accidents that are reportable to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Non RIDDOR accidents are those that do not have to be reported to the HSE but nonetheless were accidents at work.

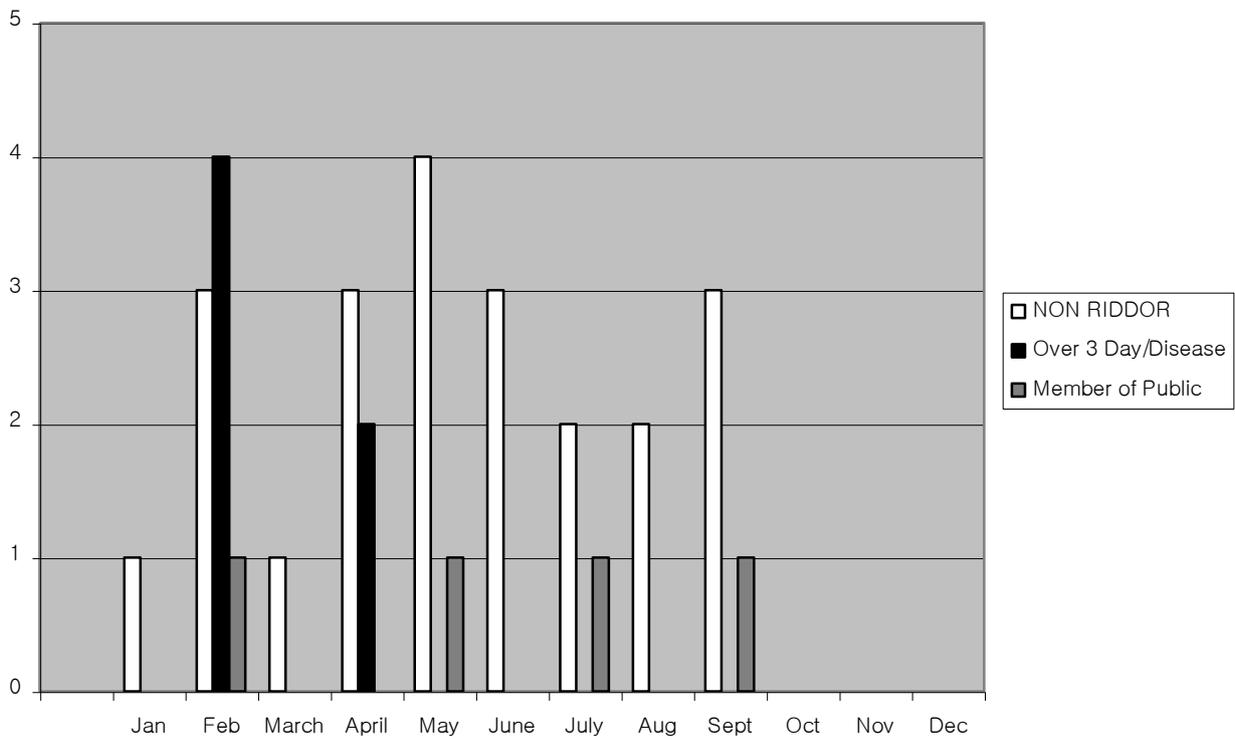
2.6 In short, RIDDOR accidents are those;

- Where a member of staff has been required to stay in hospital for 24 hours after the accident
- Where a member of the public was taken to hospital for treatment after the accident
- If the accident results in the member of staff being off work for 3 days after the date of the accident.

H&S STATS FOR SDDC RIDDOR VS NON RIDDOR 2007



H&S Stats for SDDC by Status 2008



2.7 The graphs above show that accidents have reduced from 60 by Sept 2007 – 32 by Sept 2008 = 47% drop in the accident figures. The numbers down the left hand side of the charts represent whole numbers of accidents from 0 to 18 in chart 2007 to 0 to 5 in 2008.

2.8 The accepted measurement of performance in this area is to use an incident rate. This is calculated by multiplying the number of employees by 1000/divided by the number of RIDDOR accidents. The average incident rate for the Public sector and Local Government is 15.16. The incident rate of the Council for 2007 is 2.0.

### 3.0 **Current Position**

3.1 The current position is very favourable as the accidents have reduced by almost 50% for the period between 2007 and 2008. It is important that all accidents are reported and regular communication is maintained to ensure that information on accidents and 'near misses' are logged.

3.2 An early outcome of the work completed on health & safety management is the achievement of the RoSPA Gold award for housing. The Council was one of a small number of Districts to receive this accreditation in 2008. This has provided the framework to enable the Council to consider at a corporate award at some time in the future.

3.3 Another exciting development is the opportunity taken to review and modernise our health & safety processes through using an IT solution. This has been piloted in the Organisational Development Unit and is expected to be rolled out across the Council during 2008/09. This IT solution will provide more comprehensive management information, support the sharing of information and reduce the administration burden on Officers throughout the Council with health & safety responsibilities.

3.4 There has been a focus on providing health and safety training across the Council. This has included a number of courses for front line workers as well as training middle managers on health and safety responsibilities, asbestos, induction health and safety training for all new staff and first aid training.

3.5 The Health and Safety Officer is currently up dating details for the Council's contractor data base ensuring that all contractors have the appropriate level of liability insurance and health and safety procedures in place at their companies.

### 4.0 **Looking ahead**

4.1 Health & Safety remains a key issue for the Council. It is important that the progress made over the past two years is sustained and improved. In addition to providing the professional advice, training and policy framework the health & Safety will continue to work closely with services and their partners to establish a safe working environment for the Council, members of the public and anyone who works with or on behalf of the Council.

### 5.0 **Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

6.0 **Corporate Implications**

6.1 The effective management of health and safety realises a number of benefits for the Council in terms of its own workforce and anyone who comes into contact with our services. Continuing to invest resources into this will maintain and improve our approach.

7.0 **Community Implications**

7.1 The Council has a responsibility to the members of the public to provide services in a fair and safe manner. Equipping our workforce with the knowledge and skills to maintain an awareness of health and safety issues will enhance the Council's position as a community leader for such matters.

8.0 **Background papers**

8.1 Minutes of Health & Safety Committee meetings

8.2 Accident reports held by Organisational Development