

Preparing physically for the Digital Era

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SUMMARY

Objectives: □ There is no doubt that the digital generation has arrived. It has come about by new ways of thinking, resulting in advanced technologies that enhance our every day. We can do more with less, we are faster, we are more accurate and precise but is it long-term sustainable in our existing work environments. This paper explores the physical changes to our Surveyors as they move from an outdoor physically active working environment to an office based sedentary work environment. The paper explores simple changes to the workplace that promotes good health, brings a team together, generates a positive culture and in doing so becomes an employee of choice for our next generation of Surveyors. □ □ **Background:** □ Less than 30 years ago, the majority of surveying work was carried out in the field. It involved carrying equipment to Job sites, setting up tripods and physically measuring objects with tapes. With advances in technology came total stations followed by robotic instruments and GPS. These new “tools of the trade” resulted in a more rapid collection of data, primarily by being able to walk quickly between shots. The next generation of surveying equipment saw the introduction of laser scanners and UAVs. These latest tools picked up exponentially more data in an even shorter period of time with the operator not having to physically walk over the site and in some instances not even being on the site. The real work, and the most time demanding, with this equipment now takes place in the office generally sitting in front of a computer. Surveyors have rapidly moved from a physical work environment to one of little movement. □ **For the health and well-being of a modern Surveyor,** employees need to be aware of these changes and introduce physical activities to maintain good health. □ □ **Conclusion:** □ With an ageing population of surveyors there has never been a more important time to recruit young people into our profession. The lure of a big pay packet will not be enough to keep them on board. The young professional of 2025 is looking for a place that offers an outstanding work place culture, flexible working arrangements and most importantly a place where they feel they are being looked after physically and mentally. Having a workplace that focuses on staff well-being will be the most

attractive element for our next generation of Surveyors. The cost to establish and maintain a healthy workplace is minimal. The investment, when done correctly, will result in higher staff retention rates, increased productivity and thus greater financial return. □

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