

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 2010  
title: APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PLAN 2010/2011  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider and approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Environmental Health Service Plan 2010/2011.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – This key service document sets out how this Council is to fulfil its statutory duties in relation to Environmental Health service functions “to help make people's lives safer and healthier”.
- Community Objectives – To promote and support health, environmental, economic and social well-being of people who live, work and visit the Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To promote healthier environment and lifestyle.
- Other Considerations – This document meets recognised good performance management practice.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the development of the Environmental Health service to assist Ribble Valley Borough Council to better meet the requirements for comprehensive performance as in previous years, an annual service plan has been prepared for implementation this year.

2.2 This plan was first drafted in January 2010. Subsequently the proposals within the plan were referred to Corporate Management Team on 10 February 2010 and budgetary content referred to Finance for assessment and validation. Due to the current financial situation, the plan has been prepared with a view of service consolidation and minimal increase, as far as possible.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 I attach as an Appendix to this report, the finalised annual Environmental Health Service Plan in relation to Ribble Valley Borough Council. For consistency, the Plan is set out in the agreed corporate format.

3.2 I would, in particular, draw your attention to the contents of Part 2: Sections (iii) and (iv) resources, Part 7: Achievements and Part 13: Suggested service improvements.

3.3 The key issues for additional resource and improved efficiency are as follows:

- To secure a budget of £4,500 for providing 20 additional dog waste bins.

- To continue to provide enforcement resource to other service areas to assist with identified corporate enforcement pressures and to maximise income:
    - o Commercial Waste Enforcement – transfer permits and Fixed Penalty Notices; and
    - o Taxi Licensing Enforcement – ‘Office Hour’ enforcement.
  - To consider increasing income for the following items:
    - o To consider and adopt a suitable equitable charging scheme in relation to the new Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009; and
    - o Increase fees and charges in line with corporate inflation levels
- 3.4 A copy of this document will also be placed on the Ribble Valley Borough Council website for reference purposes in the “Environmental Health” Section.
- 3.5 It is believed appropriate for the Plan to be submitted to the relevant Council Committee for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.
- 4 RISK ASSESSMENT**
- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – The document identifies a number of resource issues set out in Part 3.3 above and in 3(v) in the service plan.
  - Technical, Environmental and Legal – There are no environmental or legal implications. This is also an essential performance management and review document.
  - Political – This document confirms the Council’s intended service provision in relation to this important statutory function.
  - Reputation – This document meets this Council’s obligations in relation to producing a comprehensive document clearly stating the Council’s intentions in relation to service delivery and development.
- 5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**
- 5.1 Approve the document for implementation in the next financial year within available resources.
- 5.2 Approve the identified items requiring additional funding be submitted to the Council’s Budget Working Group for consideration in the budget process.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

For further information please ask for James Russell, extension 4466.