

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 20 JANUARY 2011
title: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT POLICIES
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL – HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider and approve the updated Ribble Valley Borough Council 'Food Safety' and 'Health and Safety' Enforcement Policies.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – These key service documents set out how this Council is to fulfil its statutory duties in relation to specific environmental health enforcement functions “to help make peoples’ lives safer and healthier”.
- Community Objectives – to support health, environmental, economic and social wellbeing of people who live, work and visit Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To enable the delivery of provide effective and efficient services
- Other Considerations – These documents are recognised 'essential good practice' to state clearly the intended approach and considerations to be applied when dealing with enforcement issues within the Borough and be consistent and transparent.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 A generic Environmental Health Enforcement Policy was first prepared and approved by this Council's Community Committee in June 1998. This was adapted following guidance being received from the Food Standards Agency and other Government Agencies, requiring that service specific enforcement policies be produced and in more detail. In order to meet these requirements several service specific enforcement policies were generated and approved by Community Committee in November 2001. These were further revised and reissued in June 2005.

3 ISSUES

3.1 To meet relevant performance indicators and good practice, a revised enforcement policy has been prepared in line with current guidance and taken into account best practice from such institutions as the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in relation to the 'Food Safety' and 'Health and Safety' functions.

3.2 The draft documents are attached as Appendix 'A' and 'B' to this report for your information. In addition, these documents will be placed on the Ribble Valley Borough Council website for reference purposes in the 'Environmental Health' Section. This will enable residents and organisations to obtain the current version from the website at any time.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – None.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – There are no environmental implications. These documents are essential to the “transparent and consistent” enforcement of the relevant environmental health functions.
- Political – This document helps fulfil the Council's intention to deliver appropriate enforcement in relation to these important statutory functions.
- Reputation – This document meets the Council's obligations in producing the relevant comprehensive documents clearly stating the Council's intentions and commitment in relation to enforcement activity.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve the updated ‘Food Safety and ‘Health and Safety’ Enforcement Policies for implementation within the Borough of Ribble Valley.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 Food Standards Agency ‘Food Law Code of Practice (England)’ - issued June 2008

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