

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 20 JANUARY 2011
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of relevant issues which have arisen since the last meeting.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions – the following reports generally relate to the Council's ambitions to make people's lives safer and healthier.

2 RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION – FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.1 I am pleased to advise Committee of the successful outcome of recent prosecution in relation to the finding of a significant quantity of unfit food in a local licensed premise.

2.2 The case was heard at Accrington Magistrates Court on 4 November 2010 and the court imposed fines totalling £1145 for several offences, a victim surcharge of £15 and the Council was also awarded £1000 in costs.

2.3 I can also inform you of the recent issue of a Simple Caution to a local golf club, which concluded a significant investigation into a notifiable accident at the premises concerned.

2.4 In May 2010, Environmental Health received notification of a serious accident involving a greens man losing part of a finger. The investigation found that grass-cutting machinery had not been maintained as required. However, due to the golf club's full co-operation and positive response, under the circumstances it was appropriate to offer this option, which was accepted.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY LIAISON MEETING

3.1 A liaison meeting was held on 10 January 2011, a copy of the minutes will be circulated for your information at the beginning of this meeting.

4 FLOOD PROTECTION PROPERTY GRANT UPDATE

4.1 I am pleased to report the ongoing progress with the DEFRA Flood Property Grant scheme.

4.2 The contract for the related works has progressed through the tender process with the contract being awarded to JT Atkinson of Penrith in early December. Survey work by the contractor is expected to commence this week, with the scheme being completed entirely by the end of February.

4.3 The Environment Agency have invited us to submit a final claim early, based on the tender value, to ensure due payment by the deadline date of 31 March 2011.

5 TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRIVATE SEWERS

5.1 I am pleased to report that I have received correspondence from United Utilities on the 13 December 2010, indicating that they expect to take responsibility for private sewers, lateral drains and pumping stations in the North West from October 2011.

5.2 United Utilities are to arrange a workshop early in the New Year and start liaison with officers of the Council to achieve a smooth transition.

5.3 Members need to be aware that Environmental Health will retain responsibility for dealing with private drainage blockages and defects (residential & commercial) which remain the responsibility of property owners.

6 SLAIDBURN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

6.1 I am pleased to report the considerable progress achieved by United Utilities with installing the new mains water system.

6.2 The majority of the system service and structure have now been completed and the installation of individual connections to each property will commence next month.

7 MEASURES AGAINST FLU

7.1 As you are aware, there are significant concerns with relation to the severity of some strains of the flu present in the community, and associated fatalities.

7.2 The matter was considered by Corporate Management Team, when it was decided that it would be prudent to inform staff and reinstate control measures within the work environment as introduced for the pandemic flu last year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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