

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 24 MARCH 2011  
title: APPROVAL OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY FOR SMALL CATERING PREMISES  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider and approve recommended standards for sanitary accommodation for customers using small catering establishments.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – This document contributes to two of the three stated ambitions, namely:
  - “to help make peoples lives safer and healthier”; and
  - “to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area”.
- Community Objectives – To promote and support healthy environmental, economic and social well-being of people who live, work and visit the Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To promote a healthier environment and lifestyle.
- Other Considerations – The approval of this document will provide a useful reference document to apply reasonable standards in a transparent and consistent manner.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has responsibility in relation to requiring suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation is provided and made available in a range of commercial premises for which the Council is responsible as the enforcement authority.

2.2 As part of advising new and existing businesses, Environmental Health is required to set sanitary accommodation standards

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 The Council has powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation. Historically, the environmental health service has applied the relevant British Standards contained within BS:6465-1. This can be setting standards as part of the scheduled inspection process, in response to complaints, advising initial enquiries and also during the planning consultation process.

- 3.2 Unfortunately, the latest edition of the British Standards has significantly altered and increased the required standards and categories of premises to such an extent as to be of concern, be not readily applicable, particularly in relation to the standards required of small catering businesses.
- 3.3 To be consistent and transparent, an amended standard has been produced in conjunction with other local authorities in Lancashire. The document is attached as the appendix to this report, which is considered to provide a more relevant and realistic standard.
- 3.4 The new standards have been discussed by the Lancashire Food Officer Group, with the majority recognising and experiencing problems with the latest standards. In some cases, authorities are no longer recognising or applying these standards. Other Lancashire authorities are in the process of considering 'adopting' similar standards to those recommended by this report.

## 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – None.
  - Technical, Environmental and Legal – This standard enables officers to require and apply more reasonable standards to local 'small' catering businesses.
  - Political – The Council is seen to be proactive in preventing potentially 'excessive' requirements within the Borough.
  - Reputation – As above.

## 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Approve the attached Sanitary Accommodation Standards for implementation within Small Catering Premises.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. The British Standards BS:6465-1 – Sanitary Accommodation.

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