

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2011
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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 healthier and safer.

2 HANSON CEMENT LIAISON MEETING

2.1 A liaison meeting was held on 31 March 2011, a copy of the minutes are attached for your information as Appendix A to this report.

3 FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT UPDATE

3.1 I am pleased to report the successful completion of the DEFRA flood property grant scheme.

3.2 Feedback from householders and the contractor is that work has gone very smoothly, to plan and within budget without any major issues arising.

3.3 Unfortunately, a recent application to the Environment Agency for further funding in the next round has been unsuccessful with the funding being five times oversubscribed.

4 CLITHEROE CEMETERY EXTENSION – UPDATE

4.1 Further to the decision report to this Council's Planning and Development Committee in December 2010, I am pleased to report that the CPO process is proceeding satisfactorily with no delays anticipated at the time of writing this report. A final advert has now been published informing that the CPO has now been 'vested'. No valuation is yet available as to the likely costs of the access strip in question.

4.2 Unfortunately, planning permission to create the access and to extend the cemetery has been deferred pending 'archaeological consideration' and is yet to be determined.

5 NATIONAL FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME – 'Scores on the Doors'

5.1 I am pleased to report that the significant progress has been ongoing and we are on target with the Lancashire Scheme to go live on 1st June. A regional launch on behalf of the 9 participating local authorities (Wyre, Chorley, West Lancs, Hyndburn, Preston, South Ribble, Burnley and Rossendale) will take place at the Mytton Fold Hotel, Langho who kindly agreed to host the event.

5.2 In Ribble Valley, a total of 521 food premises will be included in the scheme and will be allocated a star rating as follows;

- 5* - 259 premises (50%)
- 4* - 124 (24%)
- 3* - 95 (18%)
- 2* - 15 (3%)
- 1* - 15 (3%)
- 0* - Zero

13 (2%) are currently 'unrated' and are awaiting a visit/ re-score

6 EXERCISE 'WATERGATE' – EMERGENCY PLANNING

6.1 On Tuesday, 5th July 2011, Ribble Valley is hosting a multi-agency emergency planning 'communications' exercise based upon a flooding incident taking place at Mearley Brook, Clitheroe and the surrounding area.

6.2 The exercise will be based on a 1 in 200 year flood scenario and will include; the Police, Fire & Rescue, Environment Agency, 33 Signals Regiment, LCC Highways, Raynet, Met. Office, Electricity NW, OFCOM and Nigel Brown will be in attendance as an observer from the Cabinet Office. This is the first time that the interoperability of several telecommunication systems has been undertaken on this scale and is being recognised at a national level.

6.3 Arrangements are being made for a number of response units to be set up in the yard at Howdens, Highfield Road to act as field stations to test and feedback into the exercise sited in the Council Chamber. In support of the exercise, participating agencies are to deploy some of their equipment eg a high volume pump and flood barriers are to be deployed as part of the exercise.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for James Russell on 01200 414466.