

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 17 NOVEMBER 2011
 title: APPROVAL OF REVISED PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY FEES AND CHARGES
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: JAMES RUSSELL – HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider and approve an amended scale of charges in relation to the Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2009
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Council Ambitions – To help make peoples lives safer and healthier.
 - Community Objectives – Health and well-being.
 - Corporate Priorities – to help make peoples lives safe and healthier.
 - Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In May 2010 this Committee resolved to adopt fees up to the maximum permissible under the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009.
- 2.2 Since this report, further guidance has been received from the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) on behalf of concerns expressed by the Minister on the setting of fees and charges by Local Authorities. In particular, the guidance emphasises that the regulations permit Local Authorities to recover 'reasonable costs' associated with providing these services to private supply owners/operators. The Inspectorate is critical of information being published based on maximum limits, which is considered confusing and incorrect. The guidance requires Councils to adopt good practice and set their charges based on actual costs of analysis and an hourly rate for officers.
- 2.3 After consultation with other Local Authorities and laboratories, it was decided to utilise United Utilities for the analysis of private water supply samples as they were found to provide the most cost effective and comprehensive service.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The following table shows the proposed revised fees for approval:

SERVICE (ACTIVITY)	MAX. FEE PERMITTED BY THE REGULATIONS	FEES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY RVBC (MAY 2010)	REVISED FEE FOR ADOPTION IN RIBBLE VALLEY
RISK ASSESSMENT	£500	At cost – to a maximum of £500	At cost – to a maximum of £500
GRANT OF AUTHORISATION (each authorisation)	£100	£100	£100
OTHER INVESTIGATIONS (each investigation)	£100	£100	At cost – to a maximum of £100

ANALYTICAL COSTS (including £35 sampling fee for administration costs)	LARGE SUPPLY	£600	At cost – approx £100-£150 plus sampling fee of £100	Check monitoring - £77.20 Audit Monitoring - £271.50*
	SMALL SUPPLY	£125	£125	£50.80
	FOLLOW UP BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLE	£100 + cost of analysis	£100 + cost of analysis	£38.90
* this figure is likely to be significantly reduced following the initial sample				

3.2 Within the Ribble Valley we have 296 private water supplies serving approximately 600 premises. These include:

- ♦ **large supplies** (43) applies to large domestic supplies of 10m³ per day (or serving 50 or more persons) and private water supplies of any size that are used as part of a commercial or public activity. These require check and audit monitoring a minimum of once a year;
- ♦ **small supplies** (85) applies to domestic supplies which service more than one property but provide less than 10m³ per day. These require small supply monitoring once every five years;
- ♦ **single dwelling supply** (168). These are sampled if requested by the householder.

3.3 All large and small supplies (128) will require a full risk assessment by 31 December 2014.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – within existing resources, however a significant amount of staff time will be needed to implement this legislation.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Legal input will be required where enforcement action becomes necessary.
- Political – Rural households will be affected by these regulations through increased fees and treatment costs.
- Reputation – It is important that private water supply consumers are fully informed of the changes to the fees and charges

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE:

5.1 Agree to adopt the amended administration fees and charges set out in the table in Paragraph 3.2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2009
- 2 Technical Manual 9 [England & Wales] April 2010
- 3 DWI Information Letter Ref 11/2010 dated 29 October 2010
- 4 Reports to Health and Housing Committee November 2008 and May 2010

For further information please ask for James Russell, extension 4466 or Matthew Riding, extension 4470.