

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2011
title: AUTHORISATION OF ALTERNATIVE PROPER OFFICER
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL – HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider and confirm arrangements in relation to the authorisation of 'proper officer' appointments with the local health organisations.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions – 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 health, environmental, economic and social wellbeing of people who live, work and visit the Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – to be a well managed Council, providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
- Other Considerations – to agree essential support/service partnerships with fellow health providers.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 As a district council, Ribble Valley Borough Council is required to authorise medical officers to give advice and act on its behalf under the following legislation:

- Public Health Act 1936
- Public Health Act 1961
- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (as amended)
- The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010
- The National Assistance Act 1948
- The National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951

2.2 The current authorised proper officers were duly authorised following a previous report to this Committee on 13 November 2008, which are now out of date.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Recently, there have been significant changes in both associated legislation and the structure of the organisations and their personnel, who would provide this service on this Council's behalf. These services will in future be provided through the offices of

the Cumbria and Lancashire Health Protection Unit on behalf of either the East Lancashire PCT or the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

3.2 As a result of ongoing discussions with Dr Steven Gee, Interim Director of Cumbria and Lancashire Health Protection Unit, it has been agreed to confirm officer authorisation to ensure an appropriate response to infectious disease problems and outbreaks and requests for compulsory admission to hospital under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. The proposal is based on the understanding that the nominated consultant will be the main contact but that other consultants would be available under out of hours 'on call' arrangement and to cover absence.

3.3 Dr Steven Gee's suggestions are as follows:

A For Public Health Act 1936 and 1961, Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, and the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010:

Proper Officer Dr Sohail Ashraf – Consultant in Health Protection.

Alternative Proper Officers Dr John Astbury, Dr Kenneth Lamden, Dr Steven Gee, Kate Brierley and Jeff Scott.

B For the National Assistance Act 1948 and the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951:

Proper Officer Dr Sohail Bhatti – Interim Director of Public Health East Lancs PCT.

Alternative Proper Officers Dr Mark Smith, Dr Anthony Sudell, Dr Aidan Kirkpatrick, Karen Thompson, Sue Harvey.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – None.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Ensures appropriate medical officers are properly authorised to act on behalf of this Council.
- Political – None.
- Reputation – Ensures that proper formal arrangements are in place to deal with foreseeable situations relating to infectious disease and national assistance issues.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Approve the authorisation of the said officers for the duties listed to act on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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