

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2012
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 FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT UPDATE - RIBCHESTER

2.1 Further to my report to the last meeting of Committee, I am pleased to report that the survey of each property has now been undertaken and a report is being produced for each. In addition, a Flood Fair has been organised for the residents and businesses of Ribchester for Friday, 13 January, to be held between 5 and 8pm, to engage and inform people as to protection measures.

2.2 Subject to agreement with the occupiers, a tender document will subsequently be produced for an agreed scheme of works for completion by 31 March 2012. We continue to work closely with the Environment Agency to deliver a 'Fit and Forget' scheme subject to sufficient funding being available.

3 CLITHEROE MARKET - UPDATE

3.1 Further to my report to the previous meeting of Committee, I am pleased to report the ongoing elevated attendance at the Friday Flea Markets. In November, 7/8 traders attended weekly which reduced in December to 3/4 a week rather than the 3 traders in previous years. However, in December, several of the Friday traders attended on a Thursday instead.

3.2 We shall continue with the reduced charge of £5 to the end of the financial year.

3.3 Following a recent legal case, the Valuation Office Agency (VAO) has recently reviewed and changed the business rating for market cabins, with the result that Clitheroe Market cabin holders have received a letter from them advising that from the end of January 2012, the system will change with the trader being responsible for payment of a business rate for their individual cabins, rather than the Council being liable for the entire site.

3.4 A meeting was organised and held with a delegation of traders on Thursday, 5 January, when the changes were explained, supported by an officer from the VOA. Application forms were also issued to traders for a 'small business relief exemption to payment', which lasts until March 2013, which if not extended, will then reduce to a level of 50% relief.

4 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY/HPA LIAISON MEETING

- 4.1 A liaison meeting was scheduled to take place in early December. However, the meeting was cancelled with agenda items to be taken forward to either be incorporated in the next Hanson Cement liaison meeting in March, where possible, or to the next Environment Agency liaison scheduled for June 2012.

5 UPDATE ON PEST CONTROL INCOME

- 5.1 I am pleased to report that income from the introduction of the extended pest control service charges has resulted in the additional income in the order of £740 between the beginning of October and 31 December.
- 5.2 Feedback from residents has generally been positive and understanding of the measures, with, as would be expected, a few residents electing to receive advice and undertake their own treatments initially, in order to avoid incurring the related charges.
- 5.3 The service continues to be provided by one part time officer on a 3-day per week basis. A number of options are being pursued with regard to meeting any increase in demand and to deal with wasp nest service demands during the summer months. Due to the considerably milder winter experienced to date, compared to the previous two years and in the event it continues, it is highly likely that we shall receive a higher than average demand for treatments in the forthcoming summer.

6 PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES UPDATE

- 6.1 I am pleased to report the achievement of the 2011 end of calendar year target for sampling of the programmed Private Water Supplies for commercial and multiple domestic systems. A total of 45 systems have been visited with a range of samples being procured and submitted for analysis. The necessary DWI annual return will be completed and submitted by the deadline of 31 January 2012 as required.
- 6.2 It is intended to commence the new requirement for Risk Assessments of these supplies in 2012, following the lead officer Matthew Riding, attending a training course on the 24 January.

7 FOOD INSPECTION UPDATE

- 7.1 I am pleased to report the significant improvement of food premise inspections achieved in the last quarter. To date a total of 196 inspections has been achieved to the end of December. The remaining 115 category A - C's (Higher Risk) are programmed to be completed by end of February, with every effort then being made to complete as many of the remaining 100 D and E (low risk) premises as possible by 31 March 2012.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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