DECISION

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 5

meeting date: THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

title: HEALTH AND SAFETY INTERVENTION PLAN 2017/2018

submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

principal author: HEATHER BARTON - HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider and approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council's Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2017/2018.

1.2 The Council's vision developed with the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership states that we aim to ensure Ribble Valley will be "an area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors".

This function of Environmental Health should be recognised as making an important contribution to the Council delivering this vision.

- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
 - Community Objectives To promote and support health, environmental, economic and social well-being of people who live, work and visit the Ribble Valley.
 - Corporate Priorities To promote healthier environment and lifestyle.
 - Other Considerations This document meets the Health and Safety Executives enforcement framework and requirement to produce an annual service plan complying.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 In his report "Reclaiming health & safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation", commissioned by the Minister for Employment, recommended that HSE be given a stronger role in directing Local Authority (LA) health & safety inspection and enforcement activity. This has resulted in significantly revised guidance being issued and set out in the 'National Local Authority Enforcement Code - Health & safety at Work for England, Scotland & Wales. Protecting people in the workplace and in society as a whole remains a key priority.

The focus and emphasis of health and safety enforcement regime being moved to a 'lighter touch approach' concentrating on Category 'A' high risk operations, identified national priorities, and on tackling serious breaches of the Legislation. Government reforms require HSE and Local Authorities to reduce numbers of routine inspections undertaken; to have greater targeting where proactive inspections continue; and to increase information to small businesses in a form that is both accessible and relevant to their needs. As such, this intervention plan has been prepared to meet this approach.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Attached as an Appendix to this report is a recently completed annual Health and Safety Intervention Plan in relation to Ribble Valley Borough Council.

- 3.2 I am pleased to report again that we have received no complaints against the delivery of the service.
- 3.3 A copy of the Health and Safety Intervention Programme will also be placed on the Ribble Valley Borough Council website for reference purposes in the 'Environmental Health' section.
- 3.4 It is believed appropriate for the programme to be submitted to the relevant Members forum for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
 - Resources There are no immediate implications but Committee is asked to recognise the ongoing demands on the service. Resources allocated to the Health and Safety role may be sacrificed to deal with other pressing public health priorities ie private water supply work, food safety proactive and reactive work.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal There are no environmental or legal implications. Failure to provide this document contravenes Health and Safety Executive requirements. This is also an essential performance management and review document.
 - Political This document confirms the Council's intended service provision in relation to this important statutory function.
 - Reputation This document meets this Council's obligations in relation to producing an obligatory annual Health and Safety Service Plan in accordance with national framework.
 - Equality & Diversity N/a

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2017/18 for implementation in the current financial year.

HEATHER BARTON HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES MARSHAL SCOTT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Heather Barton, extension 4466.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Authority Circular (LAC 67/2 (rev 6)

Section 18(4) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 which places a duty on Local Authorities to make adequate provision for the enforcement of Health and Safety





RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVES DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION HEALTH & SAFETY INTERVENTION PLAN 2017/18

Aug 2017

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1. Service Aims and Objectives

1.1 Aims and Objectives Departmental Aims

• To respond promptly and courteously.

- Be accessible, open and fair.
- Provide quality services.

Service Objectives

- Ensure the health, safety and welfare of people at work and also to protect society from such activities through the proportionate enforcement of legislation, the provision of advice to members of the community and training and information to operators of local businesses and their employees, and to:
- To move to a lighter touch approach concentrating on higher risk businesses, tackling serious breaches of the regulations and to carry out an annual programme of 'higher risk' health and safety interventions in accordance with Local Authority Circular (LAC 67/2 (rev 6) is guidance under Section 18 Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the National Local Authority Enforcement code.
- Investigate notified accidents reported under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013(RIDDOR) in accordance with HSE guidance;
- To investigate complaints within service target response times (2 working days) contained within the Council's Environmental Health Plan and to take appropriate action in accordance with the Council's Health and Safety Enforcement Policy, HSE and HELA Guidance;
- To give due consideration to act as "Primary Authority" to any businesses originating within the borough of Ribble Valley and to undertake lead authority enquiries referred by other agencies;
- Undertake the annual inspection programme with targeted promotional advice and educational initiatives, together with providing information and advice on health and safety to businesses. In particular, to encourage effective management structures and policy are in place by businesses to embrace the culture of health and safety to manage risk and to increase information to small businesses in a form that is both accessible and relevant to their needs



1.2 The Council's Vision

Council's vision shared with the Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership states that: "Ribble Valley will be an area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, business and visitors."

The Council's overarching corporate priority is 'to ensure a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs'. Environmental Health activity is driven by 3 of the 4 Council's ambitions, namely:

- To ensure a well-managed Council, providing efficient services based on identified customer needs'.
- To help make people's lives safer and healthier;
- To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

From these ambitions, the Council's Corporate Strategy has identified a number of objectives to be delivered through the Council's supporting Action Plan.

There are also other corporate documents that influence service delivery including the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Community Safety Plan, Data Quality Policy, Equality Framework for Local Govt., Customer Care Policy, Consultation Strategy and Citizens Charter.

Along with these key corporate documents, it is important that the services are delivered in a manner that provides satisfaction to the public. Therefore it is an integral element of all the services delivered that they are done so efficiently and effectively by appropriately qualified and experienced staff.

As a frontline Council service Environmental Health Services commit to treat all customers fairly, with respect and professionalism regardless of gender, race, nationality or ethnicity, age, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation.



2.	2. Key Objectives and Policy Statements							
	nks to Sustainable	Corporate Perf & Imp.Plan	Service Committee Policies					
•	mmunity Strategy To improve the health of people living and working in our area	"To help make people's lives safer and healthier"	Health & Housing Committee: To protect and where possible improve the environment and the general public health of the community, by taking all reasonable measures available;					
		saler and nealther	To ensure that all other eligible organisations and establishments comply with the relevant health and safety requirements.					
•	To encourage economic activity to increase business and employment opportunities To support the regeneration of Market Towns as sustainable service centres							
•	To support the priority outcomes of the Strategic Health Improvement Group within the Ribble Valley Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	To encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles in the local community	Health Prevention Strategy: To support through local activities, campaigns organised nationally by ROSPA. To support through local activities, campaigns organised nationally by the Health & Safety Executive To support relevant safety issues outside of the home, eg firework safety.					
•	To seek continuous improvement To treat everyone equally and ensure access to services is available to all							
Lin	nks to annual 'Corporate Strategy'		The Council produces an annual Corporate Strategy.					
			This strategy contains key summary service information, performance information and includes key actions for the forthcoming year. It is anticipated that this year's Corporate Strategy will not contain anything specific in relation to health & safety					



Service development history

In his report "Reclaiming health & safety for all: An independent review of health and safety legislation", commissioned by the Minister for Employment, recommended that HSE be given a stronger role in directing Local Authority (LA) health & safety inspection and enforcement activity. This has resulted in significantly revised guidance being issued and set out in the 'National Local Authority Enforcement Code - Health & safety at Work for England, Scotland & Wales. Protecting people in the workplace and in society as a whole remains a key priority.

The focus and emphasis of health and safety enforcement regime being moved to a 'lighter touch approach' concentrating on Category 'A' high risk operations, identified national priorities, and on tackling serious breaches of the Legislation. Government reforms require HSE and Local Authorities to reduce numbers of routine inspections undertaken; to have greater targeting where proactive inspections continue; and to increase information to small businesses in a form that is both accessible and relevant to their needs. As such, this intervention plan has been prepared to meet this new approach.

Detailed individual Service Plans for Food Safety, Health and Safety are prepared on an annual basis.

The Health & Safety Intervention Plan will contribute to the corporate vision, values and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy and, will be a key contributor to the delivery of the Environmental Health Service.

3. Background

3.1 Profile of the Local Authority

Ribble Valley Borough is situated in North East Lancashire, and with an area of 226 sq miles is the largest geographical district in the County. The Borough Council is one of 12 District Councils, 1 County Council and 2 Unitary Authorities within the County of Lancashire. Within the Borough, some functions relating to health and safety are the responsibility of the Health & Safety Executive, eg inspections of large industrial complexes and most factories and agricultural activities.

Over 70% of the Borough is in the 'Forest of Bowland' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a clear reflection of the landscape quality of the area.

The borough has a population of approx. 58,480 (2015), with Clitheroe, the main administrative centre having 14,765 inhabitants (2011). Clitheroe lies at the heart of the borough, whilst Longridge, the other main town, lies in the West. Longridge has a population of approximately 7,724 (2011). The remainder of the area is mainly rural with a number of villages ranging in size from large villages such as Whalley, Sabden and Chatburn through to small hamlets such as Great Mitton and Paythorne.

The Borough has a mixed economy, with good employment opportunities and a consistently low rate of unemployment. Given the rural nature of the area it is not surprising that agriculture is a primary employer through the District. Large manufacturing activity is represented by several major national and multi-national companies, for example: British Aerospace, Hanson Cement, Johnson Matthey, Ultraframe and 3M.

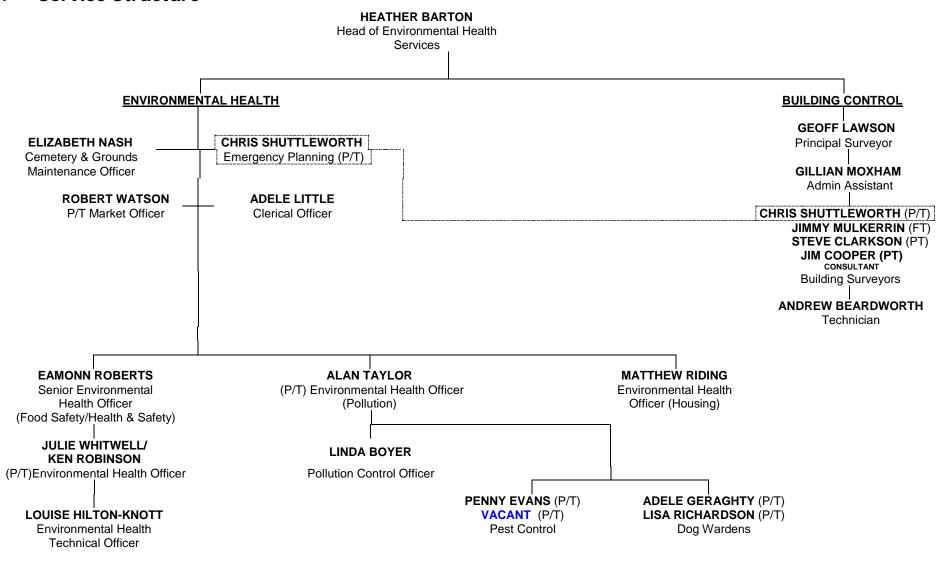
The Ribble Valley has excellent lines of communication, which open up the area to the rest of the country. The A59 trunk road, a main artery from the west coast through to the East, dissects the Borough, and links to the M6. Main line rail services are available from Preston, which is only 30 minutes from Clitheroe. In addition, Manchester Airport is only 60 minutes away from Clitheroe and provides links to over 200 destinations worldwide.

POLITICAL MAKE-UP OF THE BOROUGH

40 Local District Councillors33 Parish Councils (and 7 Parish Meetings)2 Town Councils1 Member of Parliament



4. Service Structure





4.1	Political Arrangements	Health and Safety falls under the terms of reference of the Health & Housing Committee. The Health & Safety Intervention Plan will be reported to the Council's Health & Housing Committee for approval and adoption.				
4.2 Provision for Specialist Services		Legionella/Microbiological Examiner Public Health Advice Enforcement Liaison Officer Occupational Medical Advice L A Sector Enforcement Guidance	National Infectious Disease Centre and Public Health England CHP/DPH – Consultant in Communicable Disease Control/Director of Public Health, Public Health England.			
4.3	The Scope of the Environmental Health Section's Health & Safety Service	warehouses, catering premis Safety (Enforcing Authority) Health and safety enforcement authority operated premises	thority is responsible for health and safety enforcement in most offices, shops, ses, residential care homes and places of worship as prescribed by the Health & Regulations 1998. ent in heavy industrial premises, mines, factories, agricultural activities and local is the responsibility of the Health & Safety Executive. Department the Environmental Health Section also delivers the following services			
•		 Housing standards 	 Clitheroe Cemetery Infectious Disease Investigation Pest Control & Dog Warden Services Animal Welfare Licensing Building Control Smokefree Workplace Beauty Treatments licensing 			



4.4	Service Delivery Points	Environmental Health Section Chief Executives Dept. Council Offices, Church Walk CLITHEROE Lancashire BB7 2RA Email environmental.health@ribblevalley.gov.u	(01200) 425111 (switchboard) (01200) 414464 (direct) Fax: (01200) 414487 Web Site: www.ribblevalley.gov.uk Opening Hours: 08.45 – 17.00 Monday – Friday	Out of Hours: Emergency Service available by contacting 01200 444448		
4.5	Demands on the Environmental Health Section	with food safety, nuisance complaints, i	on the environmental health service in relation to maintaining a clean environment, noise contro blanning, Housing standards, and protecting th	l, animal welfare, pest		
		In relation to health and safety, the area contains a mix of office, wholesale, retail, residential care homes and catering premises. Catering/hotels and wholesale/retail are the dominant sectors within this mix. The businesses are predominantly small to medium sized establishments.				
		number of residential care homes, cara	ross-section of health and safety businesses van sites, industrial unit warehousing, 'large' ovely high risk, complex and resource intensive.			
4.6	Enforcement Policies	Corporate adoption of the Enforcement C Health & Safety Enforcement Policy Environmental Health General Enforcem				



5. Service Delivery

5.1 Health & Safety Premises Inspections & Interventions

It is Ribble Valley Borough Council's policy to carry out interventions at all premises which are identified as 'high risk'.

In line with recent Government reform and HSE guidance, the Council is asked to move away from undertaking a formal annual inspection programme as set previously and to adopt a 'lighter touch' approach concentrating on 'higher risk' businesses identified in the annually published list of national priorities, and on tackling serious breaches of the rules. As such, interventions will be limited to High risk activities, those subject to justified complaint, where an accident has occurred or where significant risk factors are identified locally in line with the general Hampton principle of 'no inspection of a premises on health and safety grounds only, should be undertaken without good reason'.

Interventions in the form of proactive inspections and/or advisory campaigns will be undertaken where resources allow, in line with HSE 'National Priorities' focusing on

- improving the management of health and safety in businesses,
- Construction in LA enforced premises,
- explosion caused by LPG,
- control of E.coli/cryptosporidium at farm visitors centres or similar,
- · welfare facilities for delivery drivers,
- fatalities & injuries resulting from falls from height from fragile roofs,
- industrial diseases (cancer/deafness/respiratory diseases especially silicosis and asbestosis),
- carbon monoxide poisoning and gas safety in commercial premises,
- violence at work.
- · Beverage gasses in the hospitality industry

Please see appendix 1 for the 2017-18 local and national initiatives.

5.2 Primary Authority Arrangements

Authority The Authority has not been approached by and is not aware of any local company expressing an interest in entering into a Primary Authority Arrangement with The Council for health and safety control.

5.3 Advice to Business

The Authority has a policy of offering advice to any business which has trading premises within our area unless the trader has a Home Authority arrangement with another Local Authority.



5.4	Accident/Dangerous Occurrence Investigation	The general policy of Ribble Valley Borough Council is to assess and investigate 'as appropriate' reportable accidents and dangerous occurrences as a matter of urgency but at least within 2 working days. This area of work has increased significantly and involves considerable investigative work and remains at approximately 41 per year. Over the last several years there have been two investigations into fatalities, and an accident which resulted in the paralysis of a horse rider at a local riding school. These can be complexed and time consuming especially where evidence is required in the Coroners Court.
5.5	Liaison with other Organisations	The Authority participates in the following liaison groups related to health and safety issues in order to ensure that enforcement action taken within the Borough of Ribble Valley is consistent with those of neighbouring local authorities:
		Environmental Health Lancashire (EHL) – Health & Safety Officer Sub-Group (HASOG)
5.6	Health & Safety Promotion	The Authority will seek to be involved in the following promotional/training activities in relation to health, safety and welfare at work:
		Training Courses: EH Lancs/ Health and Safety Officer Group initiatives Foundation Health & Safety Courses – referred to Lancashire County Council Education Service/Local Colleges
5.7	Health & Safety Training for Officers	The general aim is to provide adequate relevant officer training to achieve and maintain required officer competence levels, this will be achieved within an allowance of 20 hours per Officer each year to attend adhoc training seminars. Specific additional training is provided to address needs identified within the Officer annual appraisal system and Regulator Development Needs Assessments (RDNA), subject to course availability and within available resources.
5.8	Staffing Allocation	The approximate resources which will be designated for the delivery of the Health and safety aspect of this service is 0.5 FTE
		In line with Committees previous agreement, Food Safety will continue to be given overall priority. In the event of the need to redeploy resources in the event of a serious accident investigation/fatality, Members will be duly informed.

6. Analysis of Present Position

Set out below is the standard SWOT analysis of the Environmental Health & Safety service:

Strengths

- Well developed strategies and policies for the service in line with national guidance.
- Inspection procedure modified to be topic based in line with recent HELA guidance.
- Service well aligned with corporate strategy/policy.
- Well established performance monitoring procedures.
- Experienced and dedicated staff.
- Low staff turnover.
- Clear commitment to quality service delivery.

<u>Weaknesses</u>

- Consistently under achieved to meet 'food premises' inspection targets
- History of insufficient resources (always fire fighting)
- Proactive work at risk in event of public health emergency reactive work demands.
- Potential remuneration problem in event of vacancies.
- Lower priority of health & safety enforcement.
- Increasing complexity of regulation and enforcement requirements to specialise to achieve competency.
- Diminishing pool of officers nationally.

Opportunities

Multi-skilled public health professionals.

Threats

- Increasing complexity of issues greater need for research/documented procedures.
- Health and safety service audit by HSE (LAU) for consistent under achievement of annual performance targets based on 'risk assessment'.
- Increased information gathering and recording increasing inspection costs.
- Projected shortage of EHO's entering profession.
- Pressures to Public Health Network to concentrate resources on health care service delivery rather than prevention partnerships.
- Increasing duties and demands in relation to food safety, licensing, industrial air pollution regulation, clean environment and animal welfare.



7.	Quality Systems	It is our policy to carry out all areas of health and safety service delivery in accordance with our Health & Safety documented procedures.						
7.1	Review	Salety documented procedures.						
7.2	Review Against the Service Plan	The service performance indicators will be reviewed quarterly and reported to members. The review will link not the annual budgetary process and the review of any Performance Plans. Performance monitored monthly and quarterly by management review of progress.						
7.3	Annual Performance	In 2016-17:-						
		 49 service requests were recorded of which 47 of 49 (96%) were actioned within the target response time of 2 working days in accordance with the Environmental Health Plan. 						
		 26`Notified Accidents at work' were received all of which (100%) were reviewed and where appropriate investigated. 						
		Considerable involvement was required with a number of outdoor events						
		 There was a complexed investigation into a case of Legionnaires disease linked to the poor control of a hot water system at a local caravan site complex. 						
		34 health and safety visits were made and 1 improvement notice was served.						
7.4	Complaints against service delivery	 In the year 2016/17 there has been no complaints received about the health and safety enforcement activity. 						

Appendix 1. Health and Safety Regulation Team National and Local Initiatives 2017/18

Hazards	High Risk Sectors	High Risk Activities	Justification for Initiative	Notes and enforcement expectation	Lead officer	Estimated Number of Premises and Timescale when project to run
E.coli/Cryptosporidium infection especially in children	Interventions at open farms/animal visitor attractions	Awareness of E coli/Crypto promoted & control measures implemented in these establishments or attractions.	National priority. Godstone Farm Outbreak in 2009. List of activities/sectors suitable for targeting proactive inspection	Guidance and training material for inspectors produced. Enforcement strategy agreed.	Eamonn Roberts	1 (Bowland wild boar park)
Fatalities/injuries resulting falls from height	All premises. To be raised as a matter of evident concern if observed.	Work at height on fragile roofs/materials, small scale repairs, gutter cleaning.	National priority	Guidance and training material for inspectors produced. Topic Inspection Packs available. Enforcement strategy agreed.	Eamonn Roberts	01.04.17- 31.03.18
Industrial Diseases (Occupational respiratory diseases)	All premises. To be raised as a matter of evident concern if observed.	Exposure to respirable crystalline silica (Block cutting chasing brickwork, cutting concrete floors) Exposure to asbestos.	National Priority	Guidance and training material for inspectors produced. Topic Inspection Packs available.	Eamonn Roberts	01.04.17- 31.03.18

Appendix 1. Health and Safety Regulation Team National and Local Initiatives 2017/18

Hazards	High Risk Sectors	High Risk Activities	Justification for Initiative	Notes and enforcement expectation	Lead officer	Estimated Number of Premises and Timescale when project to run
Crowd control and injuries fatalities to the public	Large scale public gatherings eg cultural events, sports, festivals and live music	Lack of suitable planning, management and monitoring of the risks arising from crowd movement and behaviour as they arrive, leave and move around a venue	Local Initiative	Raised awareness for operators of such events Event organisers not complying mayface formal action	Julie Whitwell	Approx 4 premises All year
Carbon Monoxide poisoning/gas safety	Commercial catering premises eg charcoal ovens and grills using solid fuel cooking equipment	Awareness of risks and suitable ventilation and use of safe appliances	National Priority	Raised awareness regarding CO and gas safety. Businesses not complying may face formal action	Eamonn Roberts	Approx 10 All year
Beverage gasses in the hospitality industry	hospitality industry	Poor management of the hazard of asphyxiation in cellars	National Priority	Raised awareness regarding beverage gas safety. Businesses not complying may face formal action	Eamonn Roberts	01.04.17- 31.03.18
Swimming pool safety	Caravan sites and hotels	Evidence locally of poor management of pools safety leading to the potential of drowning.	Local Initiative	Specially trained staff to inspect and enforce if necessary	Julie Whitwell	01.04.17- 31.03.18

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Hazards	High Risk Sectors	High Risk Activities	Justification for Initiative	Notes and enforcement expectation	Lead officer	Estimated Number of Premises and Timescale when project to run
Construction	All premises. To be raised as a matter of evident concern if observed.	Where premises are likely to be clients for construction work.	National Priority	Raise need for CDM in terms of fragile roofs, asbestos, and silica.	Eamonn Roberts	01.04.17- 31.03.18
Welfare provision for delivery drivers	Warehousing. To be raised as a matter of evident concern if observed.		National Priority	National guidance available.	Eamonn Roberts	01.04.17- 31.03.18