

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
28th JULY 2005

Environmental Health -
Health and Safety Service Plan

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Improved Health and Well Being
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Well Being
KEY PRIORITY:	Public Health
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Maureen Aston
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1 Health and Safety Service Plan. A copy of the Plan has been placed in Party Group Rooms and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce an Environmental Health 'Health and Safety Service Plan' which will assist in delivering an efficient Health and Safety Service.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE:**

- 2.1 To formally adopt the Environmental Health - Health and Safety Service Plan (2005-7)

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A two tier system of Health and Safety Enforcement is currently in place in this country with the Health and Safety Executive (a national body) dealing with the larger processes such as oil refineries and large manufacturers and local authorities dealing with offices, recreation, hotels, restaurants etc.
- 3.2 Local Authorities are being asked by the Health and Safety Executive to take on increasingly more complicated industries and processes and the number of small businesses is growing rapidly.
- 3.3 The Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974 and other associated legislation places a duty on local authorities to enforce the provisions of the Act in premises under its

control and this involves regular programmed inspections and investigation of accidents.

- 3.4 It is anticipated that in the future the Council will have to account for its Health and Safety work to the HSE by way of performance indicators.
- 3.5 The Council does not currently employ any staff to exclusively carry out Health and Safety duties but uses Environmental Health Officers and Technical Officers within its Food and Health and Safety Section to carry out these functions. All officers must be suitably trained.
- 3.6 There are currently 2160 premises for which the Council is responsible for the enforcement of Health and Safety within the District. It is the Council's aim to protect the health, safety and welfare of people who work in these premises and to safeguard others, principally members of the public who may be exposed to the way the work is carried out.
- 3.7 This Service Plan has been produced to help meet the Council's statutory responsibilities in a cost effective and responsible manner in accordance with the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) guidance to local authorities on Section 18(4) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELA).
- 3.8 The Service Plan was considered by Licensing and Environmental Committee at its meeting on 23rd

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

If the Council does not carry out its statutory functions under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 it could face legal action and possible intervention by the H.S.E.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Service Plan will help the Council carry out its Health and Safety function in an efficient and cost effective manner. Any budgetary implications can be met from existing budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The adoption of this Service Plan would help towards showing compliance with Section 18(4) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
- 6.2 If the Council failed to carry out its statutory duty in respect of Health and Safety it could face legal and financial penalties from the courts and the Health and Safety Commission.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The adoption of a Health and Safety Service Plan will give a sound basis for running a cost efficient and effective service.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

9.2 Head of Financial Services

9.3 Head of Planning, Health and Environment

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

14.7.05

