

REVISED ENFORCEMENT POLICY - HOUSING, HEALTH & COMMUNITY CARE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Housing, Health & Community Care (HHCC) Divisional Enforcement Policy was approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on the 12th of July 2001 (Min 255/01).
- 1.2 The enforcement policy, which is appended to this report, is brought back for Members' approval having been extensively revised to include current best practice.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The HHCC Enforcement Policy was developed in accordance with the principles of the Government's Enforcement Concordat, which has been adopted by Rochford Council as a blueprint for fair, practical and consistent enforcement.
- 2.2 The policy has been revised to include current best practice and to take into account matters such as the Health & Safety Commission's enforcement policy statement.
- 2.3 External consultation on the draft revised document has been carried out with the local Chambers of Trade and Federation of Small Businesses, also directly with a small selection of local businesses and more widely via the Council's Internet site. Those comments received have been positive and indicate that the enforcement policy is seen as fair and reasonable.

3 RISK IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Reputation Risk

The adoption of the revised enforcement policy will confirm the continuing commitment of the division to protecting the public and the environment by the fair, consistent and transparent enforcement of relevant legislation.

3.2 Regulatory Risk

An enforcement policy, formally endorsed by Members, is a stated requirement of Best Value Performance Indicator 166.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The approved enforcement policy document will be made freely available on the Council's website. In addition, it is intended to publish a summary information leaflet for dissemination to local businesses and the public, the cost of which can be met from existing budgets.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) To approve the revised Housing, Health & Community Care Enforcement Policy.
 - (2) To authorise the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care to update or amend the divisional enforcement policy as appropriate in the future.

Graham Woolhouse

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Background Papers:

None

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