

**Subject:** Environmental Health Noise  
Strategy and Policy

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** The Cabinet

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008

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**Report of:** Executive Director of Regulatory Services

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**Portfolio Holder:** Portfolio Holder for the Environment

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**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Environmental Health Service's Noise Strategy and Policy. The Strategy outlines the activities that will be pursued in order to achieve the objective of minimising the effects of noise on quality of life which is included in the Council's Environmental Strategy.

## 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
    - By ensuring services meet the needs of communities and delivering consistent and fair services across the Borough.
  - Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
    - By striving to ensure statutory noise nuisance does not spoil people's enjoyment of their home.
  - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
    - By helping to ensure people are satisfied with their community
  - Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
    - By preventing the adverse effects of excessive noise on people's health
  - Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)
    - By ensuring staff are sufficiently competent and well equipped to deliver services.

### **3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

### **4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

4.1 Noise nuisance is one of the key determinants of health about which people do not always have the ability to take action to control. The Council has a duty to inspect its area and take action to abate any statutory nuisances found.

4.2 A draft Noise Policy was considered by Cabinet on 19<sup>h</sup> March 2008. The Policy has now been revised and expanded into a comprehensive Strategy describing the means by which the Policy would be implemented.

4.3 The new Strategy describes the actions that the Environmental Health Service will take and how it works with other Departments in order to prevent future noise nuisance being caused.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

### **5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications. Implementation of the strategy will be funded from existing budgets

### **6. MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 A policy on noise prevention is an important component of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

### **7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

7.1 There are no immediate Human Resource implications. The Out of Hours service is currently provided as a Partnership arrangement with other East Lancashire Authorities. Staff from Rossendale may join the scheme on a voluntary basis if they so wish, however, if they do not want to participate, the other local authorities involved have the capacity to deliver the service.

### **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 Noise is a significant cause of neighbour nuisance throughout the Country. There are a number of ways that the Council's Environmental Health Service can prevent and abate nuisance. This Strategy outlines the main services, further details of services are included in the Service's annual Action Plan and quality management system documents.

### **9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

9.1 That the Noise Strategy and Policy be adopted.

**10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

10.1 Following the approval of the draft policy, a consultation activity was undertaken. The feedback from that consultation has been included in the Strategy in paragraph 5.6.1.

**11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required                      Yes  
Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached                      Yes

**12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required                      No  
Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required                      No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Neighbourhood Noise Policies and Practice for Local Authorities – a Management Guide Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. September 2006	Environmental Health Office, Stubbylee Hall