

# **Approval of the Somerset District Authorities Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 and the Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy 2015-2020**

*Executive Portfolio Holder:* Carol Goodall, Environmental Health, Health & Safety  
*Strategic Director:* Vega Sturgess, Operations and Customer Focus  
*Lead Officer:* Alasdair Bell, Environmental Health Manager  
*Contact Details:* Alasdair.bell@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462056

## **Purpose of the Report**

To adopt and approve as fit for purpose the Somerset District Authorities Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 in Appendix 1 and the Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 in Appendix 2.

## **Forward Plan**

This report appeared on the Executive Forward Plan with an anticipated presentation date of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## **Recommendations**

That the District Executive adopt and approve as fit for purpose:-

1. the Somerset District Authorities Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 in Appendix 1
2. the Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 in Appendix 2.

## **Report**

Section 6 of the Regulators' Code<sup>1</sup> sets out Government's expectation that local authorities will ensure that their approach to their regulatory activities is transparent. The provisions of section 6 includes an expectation that local authorities will publish a clear set of service standards, setting out what those they regulate should expect from them. This includes their enforcement policy, explaining how they respond to non-compliance.

Published service standards serve to bring the provisions of the Regulators' Code to life and are important for regulators in meeting their responsibility under the statutory principles of good regulation<sup>2</sup> to be accountable and transparent about their activities. The Regulators' Code requires that published service standards should be easily accessible, clearly signposted, and kept up-to-date.

The Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) has worked with a number of groups, including the Local Authority Reference Panel, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and others, to explore and suggest what and how service standards might be presented and how the local authority can ensure that businesses can locate them.

---

<sup>1</sup>For further information on the Regulators' Code visit BRDO's website: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code)

<sup>2</sup>Section 21, Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, available at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

The framework of this policy and accompanying service standards of the first policy above has been developed from guidance provided by the BRDO and has been produced by the Somerset Heads of Regulatory Services Group and represents a common policy across the county. This common approach supports increased collaborative working and development of resilience across Somerset to provide a robust framework for enforcement within which authorised officers can work. This collaborative approach will support consistent working for the benefit of all businesses trading throughout Somerset.

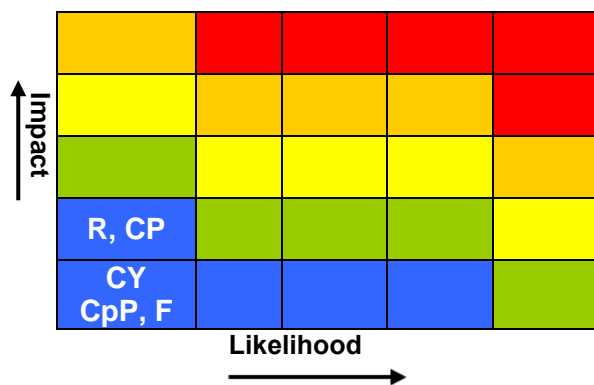
In addition to this it has been decided to produce and adopt the Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy in Appendix 2. This separate policy document has been produced to give more specific detailed advice covering the work of the Environmental Protection Unit, part of the Environmental Health service.

In May 2014 an audit was carried out of SSDC's Streetscene enforcement function, which is now part of the Environmental Protection Unit, which recommended that the existing Streetscene Enforcement policy was updated to reflect the latest developments concerning Streetscene offences. The Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 document meets that aspiration.

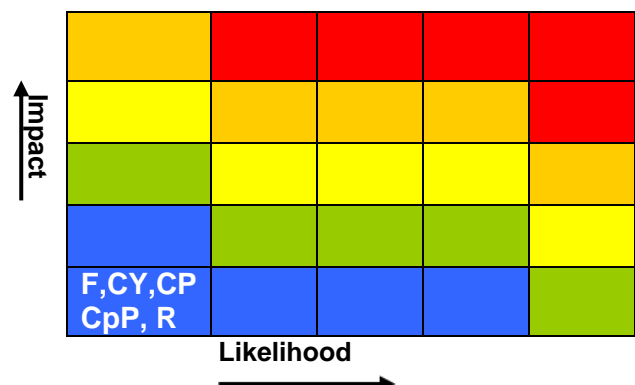
This latter policy document provides operational detail and policy guidance to officers in relation to enforcement options and various environmental offences dealt with by the Environmental Protection Unit. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Somerset District Authorities Regulatory Services Enforcement Policy 2015-2020 referred to above.

### Risk Matrix

**Risk Profile before officer recommendations**



**Risk Profile after officer recommendations**



### Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

## **Corporate / Financial / Other Implications**

This report seeks to meet the corporate aim of providing outward looking, accountable, and responsive services.

## **Background Papers**

Food & Safety Service Plan 2015/16  
Streetscene Audit-SWAP 2014

---