

**Subject:** Environmental Health Noise Policy      **Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** Cabinet      **Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007

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**Report of:** Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services

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**Portfolio**

**Holder:** A Clean and Green Rossendale

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**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan       General Exception       Special Urgency

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is intended to set out the Council's policy in relation to sources of noise and action that would be taken to control noise in order to minimise nuisance and thereby protect the health and well-being of residents in Rossendale.

**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 establishing a written policy, the standards of service can be made explicit and be monitored to ensure consistent service delivery.
  - Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
    - By minimising noise nuisance, and the creation of noise which can be to the detriment of the environment, a contribution can be made to the delivery of the Environment Strategy.
  - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
    - Promoting consideration between residents and between businesses and residents makes the environment a more pleasant and desirable place to live.
  - Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
    - Protecting people from unwanted noise will help protect their health and well-being.

### **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 determinants of health about which people do not always have direct control. In these circumstances, the Council has a duty to take action to abate nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

4.2 Noise originates from a range of sources and the means available for its control varies. There can sometimes be confusion over the powers and remedies for its abatement. The measures used can vary from informal advice, offers of mediation to service of legal notice and prosecution.

4.3 The prevention of noise nuisance can be proactive or reactive. Proactive work includes issues such as recommending conditions on planning applications to protect or prevent the impact of noise in relation to new developments and commenting on licensing applications while reactive work involves encouragement amongst residents to respect neighbour's peace, investigation of nuisance and prohibition of noisy activities.

4.4 This policy is intended to set out the various sources of noise and the policy that this Council will take towards its control. Further details are included in service standards which are available on the Council's website.

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications. Implementation of the policy will be funded from existing budget resources

### **6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY SERVICES**

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

### **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

7.1 There are no specific Human Resource implications.

### **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 Noise has been one of the most consistently worsening aspects of life in recent years and causes considerable distress to those adversely affected. Fortunately, in Rossendale the problem seems to be reducing but aspects of modern life will jeopardize this situation unless effective proactive and reactive work is undertaken.

8.2 In order to gain full recognition of the problem and its various remedies, a period of consultation with the community, businesses and agencies is necessary so that the emphasis of action is directed at areas of greatest need.

## 9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That Cabinet approves the draft policy for the purpose of encouraging consultation.

## 10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 The policy represents current practice. This has been published on the Internet and discussed with residents during the recent Haslingden Street Fair. This represents policy derived from discussions with business and residents, current Guidance by professional organisations and following the investigation of a large number of requests for service. However, further consultation is needed now that the policy is in writing.

## 11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

<b>Contact Officer</b>	
Name	Lorna Rouke
Position	Principal Environmental Health Officer
Service / Team	Environmental Health
Telephone	01706 252564
Email address	lornarouke@rossendalebc.gov.uk

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Neighbourhood Noise Policies and Practice for Local Authorities – a Management Guide	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup
Planning Policy Guidance 24 – Planning and noise	Stubbylee Hall, Bacup