

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES
CABINET MEMBER**

PRIORITY REGULATORY OUTCOMES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the consultation paper on the new approach to national priorities for Regulatory Services.
- 1.2 The opportunity to put forward the council's views on the draft priority regulatory outcomes.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 National enforcement priorities for local authority regulatory services were introduced in 2007 as a consequence of the Rogers Review.

The current 6 priorities are as follows:

- Air Quality
- Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshments licensing
- Hygiene of food premises and the safety and fitness of food
- Improving health in the work place
- Fair Trading
- Animal and Public Health

These priorities are now due for refreshing.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) has now produced a consultation paper on a new approach to National enforcement priorities for local authority regulatory services. The consultation closes on 6 May 2011. The consultation paper proposes a move to priority regulatory outcomes, which will be aligned with the programme for Government themes. These themes aim to promote a fair and responsible society, economic growth and improved quality of life for local people. The proposed outcomes do not replace statutory obligations or local priorities nor do they set out the activities or tools that regulatory services should use. Rather local authorities should have regard to the outcomes in service planning and resource setting.

- 3.2 The proposed regulatory outcomes, listed in no specific order, are:
- i) Protect the environment for future generations by tackling the threats and impacts of climate change.
 - ii) Improve quality of life and wellbeing by ensuring clean and safe public spaces.
 - iii) Help people to live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health.
 - iv) Ensure a safe, healthy and sustainable food chain for the benefits of consumers and the rural community.
 - v) Support enterprise and economic growth by ensuring a fair, responsible and competitive trading environment.
- 3.3 LBRO is keen to gather views on the following questions:
- 1. Do the draft priority regulatory outcomes accurately address the regulatory issues and risks facing England?
 - 2. Are they suitably focussed on emerging issues and future threats?
 - 3. Are outcome-focussed priorities the most effective way to promote local discretion and meet the needs of local people, whilst providing a framework to meet national needs such as support for economic growth and the protection of vulnerable citizens?
 - 4. Should the term 'priority regulatory outcomes' replace 'national enforcement priorities' to denote the list for English led authorities referred to in Section 11(1) of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008?

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Whilst the emphasis has changed to measuring desired outcomes, the work undertaken by Communities and Environment, Trading Standards & Licensing in their regulatory roles will remain largely unchanged although meaningful indicators will be required.
- 4.2 The first 3 questions require a yes or no answer plus any supplementary comments if it is deemed appropriate. The 4th question is merely which of the two terms is preferred.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial implications – There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5.2 Staffing implications – There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

5.3 Property implications – There are no property implications associated with this report.

5.4 IT implications – There are no IT implications associated with this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory implications – There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

6.2 Environmental implications – There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

6.3 Diversity implications - There are no diversity implications associated with this report.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder implications – There are no crime and disorder implications with this report.

6.5 Risk and other implications – There are no risk and other implications associated with this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 LBRO is consulting with a large number of organisations over its draft proposals including local authorities, fire & rescue authorities, government departments, national regulators, professional bodies, businesses and citizens.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Agree with and endorse the proposals contained in questions 1-3, together with any other comments the Cabinet Member deems appropriate.

8.2 In relation to question 4 we would be content with either term.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

LBRO Consultation Paper of Priority Regulatory Outcomes