

## DIVISIONAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY

1. Blackpool Council has adopted the Central and Local Government Concordat on Good Enforcement. This concordat explains what those subject to regulation can expect from enforcement officers. It commits us to good policies and procedures and requires us to provide information to show that they are being observed.
2. The Council's Divisional Enforcement Policy confers upon the Head of Environmental Services the necessary delegated powers to operate the policy on a day-to-day basis. The Environmental Health and Public Protection Committee of the Council have endorsed the general principles of the policy.

## FOOD CONTROL GROUP ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Food Control Group procedure documents provide specific guidance for officers on matters raised within this policy. Officers should raise any queries on this policy with the Specialist Public Protection Officer or the Public Protection Manager (Food Control).

The Food control Group seeks to secure the highest possible level of compliance with Food Safety legislation whilst conforming to the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights (as implemented by the Human Rights Act 1998; see Annex 3) and the Cabinet Office Enforcement Concordat.

Activities of the Group are principally directed towards the avoidance of infringements of the legislation, it is however inevitable that offences will occur and the purpose of this policy is to ensure that they are resolved in a consistent, balanced and fair manner.

### 1. Enforcement Policy Statement

- 1.1 The policy of the Council is to strive to ensure that food and drink intended for sale for human consumption, which is produced, stored, distributed, handled or consumed within the Borough of Blackpool, is without risk to the health and safety of the consumer.

### 2. Principles of Policy Application

- 2.1 The Council's Scheme of Appointments and Authorisations of Heads of Departments confers upon the Head of Quality Standards the necessary delegated powers to operate the enforcement policy on a day to day basis.

Enforcement action will be proportionate to the risk to health associated with the offences detected and will reflect the advice contained in Statutory Codes of Practice and guidance from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Local Authority Committee on Regulatory Services (LACORS).

- 2.2 Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) are authorised officers of the Food Authority and, by virtue of their appointment, are empowered to serve Hygiene Improvement Notices and Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices.

EHO's and Trading Standards Officers must observe the content of the Statutory Codes of Practice issued under the Food Safety Act 1990 and this document when determining the appropriate enforcement action. The full policy is available to read on the Council's web pages at [www.blackpool.gov.uk](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk)