

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
ENFORCEMENT SERVICE**

ENFORCEMENT POLICY
A Summary

The Enforcement Policy was originally adopted and published by the Council in June 2002. It was amended in April 2005. A full revision of the policy is currently underway with a view to publication in the spring of 2006.

Section 1 [Introduction, Aims and Purpose]

The Enforcement Policy [“the policy”] is a transparent account of how the Enforcement Service [“the service”] conducts its affairs with regard to its enforcement function. The policy sets out what businesses and others can expect from us as to enforcement by our officers.

The service’s primary function is to protect the public, environment and various groups, such as consumers and workers, and to be committed to a fair and consistent application of such protection.

Haringey Council [“the council”] recognises the desire of the great majority of people and businesses to comply with the law, and every effort will be made to provide help, where necessary. However, firm action will be taken against those who flout the law or act irresponsibly.

The council has adopted the Central and Local Government Concordat on Good Enforcement, by which it commits itself to a series of best value policies and procedures, and ensures that monitoring information will be made available. The policy sets out to inform and describe the ways in which decisions are made for various levels of enforcement work and priorities for action, and also the importance of communicating information, and the means of maintaining such activities.

Various principles of good enforcement are described. These are an account of the undertakings and proposals that make up both the policy and the supporting procedures. Reference is made to developments concerning shared enforcement initiatives and information-sharing protocols with other agencies, such as police, revenues and customs, fire authority, etc., and also for particular interests of consumers.

Section 2 [Enforcement Options]

Listings set out the various means by which information is received by the service that may necessitate the subsequent taking of enforcement action. Also included is a summary of the types of enforcement action available to the service.

Section 3 [Enforcement Standards]

A series of flow-diagrams show the standard guidance for the various enforcement activities, and also the priorities to be considered for the levels of risk, and the options for action. Reference is also made to the main supporting document that governs the procedure for decision-making as to enforcement action, and the reporting of offences. The document covers the accountability of the service's officers in respect of enforcement options, and the authorisation process as to the taking of action following those options.

Section 4 [Prosecution, Human Rights and Legal Provisions]

There is a general explanation of the two tests that we must apply under the Crown Prosecution Guidelines when we consider taking legal proceedings, namely the assessment of the quality of evidence, and whether taking proceedings is felt to be in the public interest. Also included is an account of the relevant European Convention Rights and the factors to be considered when pursuing enforcement action.

The service has introduced an important new procedure requiring standard documents to be maintained and scrutinised for all forms of enforcement action. These require an account to be documented by us of all the factors considered in taking enforcement action, along with the relevant authorisation of the enforcement action.

Section 5 [Monitoring and Review]

The factors contributing to the monitoring of reactive work, and that which is planned, throughout the various enforcement stages are listed. Reference is made to the service's Business Plan, which sets out various target periods against which the service's performance is measured. The process of review is ongoing. Parts of the service are quality assured under an accredited scheme. A constant review of the activities is required under that scheme.

A copy of each of the functional policies can be found on the Haringey web-site [<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/enforcingstandards>].

In order to refer to the full service policy, type in "enforcement policy" in the 'search box' or view the document attached to that page.