

Meeting: Environment Committee
Date: 15 March 2007
Report of: Director of Environment
Subject: Food Law Enforcement Service Plan
Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To agree the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan as required by the Food Standards Agency

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Environment Committee recommend to full Council approval of the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan as set out in Appendix A of the report.

3. Information/background

3.1 In September 2000, the Food Standards Agency issued a Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement, which was last amended in June 2003. As part of this agreement, every local authority is required to develop an annual food enforcement service plan, which provides the basis on which local authorities are monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency. To ensure local transparency and accountability, it is a requirement that the Food Service Plan is submitted to the relevant member forum for approval.

3.2 The enclosed Enforcement Plan (Appendix A) is an integral part of the organisation of the food service within Environmental Health & Licensing and Trading Standards. Both services come within the Public Safety Division. As a result of this close relationship a joint service plan is submitted. This reduces duplication, improves the effectiveness of service delivery and meets the monitoring requirements of the Food Standards Agency.

3.2 In accordance with the Standard outlined in the Framework Agreement, the food service should be a mix of enforcement, intelligence based work, investigation and education. It is planned that a performance targets of the completion of 98% of programmed food safety inspections of risk category A to D premises, the employment of an alternative enforcement strategy in respect of low risk premises (category E and F) and 90% of complaints responded to within 5 days are met. In addition, areas of current good practice, and opportunities for further improvement, have been identified, both in Food Safety and Food Standards, in section 6.3 of the Service Plan. The targeting of resources to these areas of work aims to provide a balanced mix of services, which is most likely to benefit both the business sector, consumers and other stakeholders.

4. Further information

4.1 The enclosed Enforcement Plan (Appendix A), has been written in accordance with the Food law Enforcement Standard, and in the format, which follows the guidance, issued by the Food Standards Agency.

4.2 Financial Allocation

Food Safety

The projected budget for providing the food safety service within Environmental Health is detailed below. The staffing figures include a figure to cover the appropriate proportion of the Head of Environmental Health & Licensing and administrative support:-

	Food	Infectious Diseases
Staffing	543860	38890
Transport	12630	1070
Supplies & Services	14280	1400
	<u>570770</u>	<u>41360</u>

Food Standards

It is difficult to detail the time spent on the food standards function as it is carried out during a comprehensive inspection. Time monitoring is not currently used to apportion time to the food function. It is estimated that the resources are allocated as follows:

Inspection, complaints and advice

Staffing

Management

£ 2810

Food Team

£ 24260

Total

£ 27070

Sampling

Purchases

£ 2300

Supplies

£14700

Total

£17000

Total

£44070

5. Consultation

5.1 The Lead Councillor and opposition spokesperson have been consulted. A Senior Lawyer and Senior Finance Officer have also been consulted regarding the legal and financial implications. This integrated report covers Food Safety and Food Standards, has been produced after close consultation and joint working between the relevant officers of Environmental Health & Licensing and Trading Standards.

Meeting/Date	Environment Committee 15th March 2007	
Report of	Assistant Director Public Safety Division	
Subject	Food Service Plan	
Wards affected	All	
Financial implications		
As described in section 4.1 of the main report <i>Finance Officer consulted: Sheree Calmiano 1st February 2007</i>		
Legal implications		
The Food Standards Agency under The Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement which incorporates the latest Guidance, places a requirement on local authorities to develop and submit a service plan. Local authorities are audited and assessed by the Food Standards Agency on the basis of their food law enforcement service as provided for in their Service Plans. The Council's Commercial Enforcement Policy (amended December 2000) gives due regard to the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of the Council's enforcement powers under food safety laws. The Food Safety Act 1990 (Code of Practice) places a requirement on local authorities to operate an inspection rating scheme, which determines frequency of inspections of food premises. The Council's Service Plan 2007/2008 identifies the planned number of inspections for that period. The Council's Constitution requires the adoption of the Food Enforcement Service Plan be reserved to full Council. <i>Lawyer consulted: Celine Hayden</i>		
Corporate/Citywide implications	Risk assessment	
None	A SMART target for the food safety team is the completion of 98% of food inspections scheduled for 2007/2008(category A to D). This equates to 1260 inspections.	
Sustainability implications	Equalities implications	
Liaison with relevant agencies in connection with local food initiatives, including the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership	As described in section 3.3 of the main report	
Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder		
None		
Background papers		
The Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement – published by the Food Standards Agency in September 2000, and last amended in August 2004.		

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