

ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 131

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2009/10		
Date of Meeting:	23 March 2009 Overview and Scrutiny Commission 26 March Environment Cabinet Member Meeting 23 April Cabinet Meeting 30 April Council		
Report of:	Director of Environment		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nick Wilmot	Tel: 292157
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Key Decision	Yes	Forward Plan No. ENV6355	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To agree the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan previously known as Food Law Enforcement Service Plan required by the Food Standards Agency.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment notes Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2009/2010 and recommends that it be approved by the Full Council.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement requires the production and publication of a service plan. 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.
- 3.2 To ensure local transparency and accountability, it is a requirement that the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan is submitted to the relevant member forum for approval.
- 3.3 The attached 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.

- 3.4 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 interventions 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.
- 3.5 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. In line with the amendment to the Food Safety Code of Practice in June 2008 the service will continue to focus enforcement action on the poorer performing businesses.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 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.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications

- 5.1 **Food Safety** - The projected budget for 2009/2010 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 Safety	Infectious Disease
Staffing	616,770	52,550
Transport	13,260	1,090
Supplies and Services	<u>11,030</u>	<u>1,440</u>
Total	<u>641,060</u>	<u>55,080</u>

- 5.2 **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	£ 2950
Food Team	£ 27450
Total	£ 30400

Sampling

Purchases	£ 1000
Supplies	£12000
Total	£13000

Total £43400

Finance Officer consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 02/02/09

Legal Implications

- 5.3 The Food Standards Agency under The Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement that 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 (currently being amended) 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 intervention of food premises. The Council's Service Plan 2009/2010 identifies the planned number of interventions for that period. The Council's Constitution requires the adoption of the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan be reserved to full Council.

Lawyer consulted: Liz Culbert Date: 11/02/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 See 2.4 of appendix 1 for profile of food premises registering with the food service during the year 2007/2008. The service is mindful of the greater assistance food business operators require where their first language is not English. Written information, translation and interpreting services are employed where necessary to assist businesses to comply with regulatory requirements.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 Liaison with relevant agencies in connection with local food initiatives, including the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.6 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.7 SMART target for the food safety service is (98%of due interventions achieved x 0.3 + 90 %of broadly compliant premises x 0.7)

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 None

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 There is no legal alternative to the statutory service plan.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 In order to comply with the Food Standard Agency Code of Practice.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2009/2010

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None