



ARTICLE NO: 1C

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW
& SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

MEMBERS UPDATE 2010/11

Article of: Executive Manager Community Services

Issue: 2

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SUBJECT: FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2010-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE

- 1.1 To provide Members with information about the Food Safety Service Plan for 2010-2011, (attached as Appendix 1).

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is an independent food safety watchdog set up by an Act of Parliament in 2000 to protect the public's health and consumer interests in relation to food.
- 2.2 The FSA provides information and advice to the public and Government on food safety issues from farm to fork, nutrition and diet. It also protects consumers through effective food enforcement and monitoring.
- 2.3 Food safety enforcement work is primarily the responsibility of Local Authorities and this Council works to fulfil these duties and protect the health of residents and the wider community by ensuring that all commercial production of food in the Borough is carried out safely and is fit for human consumption.
- 2.4 The Food Standards Agency has, as one of its key roles, responsibility for setting and monitoring standards and auditing Local Authorities' enforcement activities in order to ensure this activity is effective and undertaken on a consistent basis.

- 2.5 Food Safety Service Plans are seen by the FSA as an important part of the process to ensure local authorities address national priorities and standards and deliver them locally. It sees the Food Safety Service Plans will also:
- Focus debate on key delivery issues;
 - Provide an essential link with financial planning;
 - Set objectives for the future and identify major issues that cross service boundaries; and
 - Provide a means of managing performance and making performance comparisons.
- 2.6 In their guidance, the FSA has requested such plans have a common format. This enables it to assess local authorities' delivery of service but also enables local authorities to analyse and compare their performance with each other. Service Plans are also seen by the FSA as an expression of a local authority's own commitment to the development of the food service.
- 2.7 Past Food Safety Service Plans have been submitted to Cabinet and agreed by Members each year. Last year, however, it was agreed that the approval of future Food Safety Service Plans would be delegated to the Executive Manager Community Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Health. Also that the Food Safety Service Plan would be circulated to Members as part of a Members' Update.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Food Safety Service Plan for 2009/2010, as agreed by Members last year, has been implemented. Performance against that Service Plan has now been reviewed and the conclusions of the review are contained in the draft Service Plan for 2010/11.
- 3.2 The Service achieved 94% of all food premises inspections that were due in 2009/10. This compared with a Performance Target of 94% which was reduced due to the reduction of a 0.5 FTE in the Environmental Health Officer staffing within the Service from 1st October 2009. Prior to this, the Service had achieved its target of 100% of inspections due in the six previous years.
- 3.3 The Food Safety Service Plan for 2010/2011 has been developed and is attached to this report as an Appendix and consists of the following details:

Section 1	-	Service Aims and objectives
Section 2	-	Background
Section 3	-	Service Delivery
Section 4	-	Resources

Section 5 - Quality Assessment

Section 6 - Review

- 3.4 The Food Safety Service Plan provides a detailed view of the work of the Food Safety Service. It shows how the Service's aims and objectives are linked into the Council's corporate priorities and values. It details the services provided and used, along with the demands that are made on the Service.
- 3.5 A full breakdown is then provided of the proposed Premises Inspection and Intervention Programme for 2010/2011, the Food Sampling Programme and the proposed responses to a range of requests for service.
- 3.6 As well as reviewing performance for 2009/2010, the Service Plan also details proposed areas for improvement and changes for 2010/2011.
- 3.7 In view of the reduction in staffing within the Service from 1st October 2009 and its effect over 2010-2011, the Performance Target for 2010-2011 is for 90% of food premises inspections due to be completed.
- 3.8 In order to provide local transparency and accountability, in addition to the Food Safety Service Plan being submitted to Members, copies will also be sent to the Consultant in Health Protection for the West Lancashire area, to the HPA Food, Water & Environmental Microbiology Network (Preston laboratory) and to the Lancashire County Analyst.
- 3.9 A copy of the Service Plan will again be put onto the Council's Web-site for public information and with an opportunity for comments to be made on the content of the Service Plan. Existing Customer Surveys involving the Food Safety Service will again continue and give members of the public a further opportunity to comment on the work of the Service.

4.0 ISSUES

- 4.1 The FSA 'Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement' specifies the arrangement to be put in place and operated by a local authority for the enforcement of food hygiene legislation.
- 4.2 One of the requirements of the Framework Agreement document is that a local authority shall draw up, document and implement a service delivery plan in accordance with the FSA guidance. There is also a requirement that the service delivery plan is submitted for appropriate Member approval.
- 4.3 By submitting the Food Safety Service Plan to Members it fulfils the requirements of the FSA Framework Agreement.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

5.1 The Food Safety Service Plan provides an expression of the Council's commitment to the development of the food safety service. This Service contributes significantly towards improving the health of the local communities within West Lancashire.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The costs associated with production of the Food Safety Service Plan have been met from existing budgets.

6.2 The Plan describes what work will be carried out by the Service. The costs of this work will be met from existing budgets.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Food Safety Service Plan describes the financial and resource implications for the Food Safety Service, which will be met from existing budgets. If adequate staffing resources were not available, the Council may not be able to deliver an effective food safety service as required by the FSA.

Background Documents

The following background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

Date	Document
12.03.2001	Food Standards Agency 'Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement'
June 2008	Food Standards Agency "Food Law" Code of Practice
March 2006	Food Standards Agency "Food Law" "Guidance"
	The Council's Corporate Performance Plan for 2010-2011
	Food Safety Service – Food Sampling Policy
	Food Safety Service – Food Sampling Programme for 2010/11
	The West Lancashire Profile

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Appendix 1 –Annual Food Safety Service Plan 2010-11