

FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2011/12

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2011/12.
- 1.2 The Food Law Enforcement Plan is an Article 4 Plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for promoting food safety, protecting consumers from unsafe food, working with and supporting local food businesses and encouraging awareness of healthy food choices.
- 1.3 The Plan will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd June 2011 and is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration.

2. Introduction/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 public health and consumer interests in relation to food. The FSA has a key role in overseeing local authority enforcement activities. The FSA therefore is proactive in setting and monitoring standards and auditing local authorities' enforcement activities to ensure that they are effective and undertaken on a more consistent basis.
- 2.2 The FSA Framework Agreement has been developed in close partnership with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the Local Government Association. They have recommended a format for food enforcement service plans and given detailed guidance on the content of the plan. They have also requested that the plan produced should be submitted to the relevant member forum for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Food Service Plans are seen to be an important part of the process to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally. The FSA requires that the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2010/11 (attached) is formulated on an annual basis to comply with the recommendations of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That members comment on the content of the Cabinet report and refer their advice and consideration to the Cabinet.

5. Background Papers

Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, 561 1396