

CABINET MEETING - 2 JUNE 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET - PART 1

Title of Report:

FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2010/11

Author(s):

Executive Director City Services

Purpose of Report:

To advise Cabinet of the Service's Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2010/11 and seek approval of the plan.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to refer the matter to Council with the recommendation that the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2010/11 be approved; and to refer it to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for further advice and consideration.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework *Yes/No

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Foods Standards Agency which monitors and audits Local Authority activities requires Food Law Enforcement Service Plans to be approved by Members to ensure local transparency and accountability. The plan forms part of the Council's policy and budgetary framework as defined in the Constitution

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

There are no practical alternative options.

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in
The Constitution?**

Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan?

Yes

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

**Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee**

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2010/11

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the Service's Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2010/11 and seek approval of the plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to refer the matter to Council with the recommendation that the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2010/11 be approved, and to refer it to the Regeneration and Community Review Committee for further advice and consideration.

3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Food Standards Agency 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.
- 3.2 The White Paper "The Food Standards Agency – A Force for Change" identified the Food Standards Agency as having a key role overseeing local authority enforcement activities. The Agency 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.
- 3.3 Food Service Plans are seen to be an important part of the process to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally. It was recognised by both central and local government that central guidance on the contents of local service plans for food enforcement work would be helpful to local authorities.
- 3.4 The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement has been developed in close partnership with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the Local Government Association (LGA). 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.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Food Standards Agency require that the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2010/11 (attached) is formulated on an annual basis to comply with the current recommendations of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement.

5.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

5.1 The Foods Standards Agency which monitors and audits Local Authority activities requires Food Law Service Plans to be approved by Members to ensure local transparency and accountability. The plan forms part of the Council's policy and budgetary framework as defined in the Constitution.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 There are no alternative options available.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS USED

Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement