

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	28 July 2005
Subject:	Annual Food Enforcement Service Plan
Responsible Officer:	Gareth Llywelyn-Roberts
Contact Officer:	Andy Appleby
Portfolio Holder:	Phil O'Dell
Key Decision:	Yes
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

To approve the Annual Food Service Plan

Reason for report

The council is required by the Food Standards Act 1999 to consider and formally approve an annual food service plan of covering enforcement activities.

The Food Service Plan is required to be in a format produced by the Food Standards Agency. The food service was audited in May 2004 as part of the systematic audit of local authorities by the Agency. The attached plan incorporates minor additions suggested by the auditors.

Benefits

The Service Plan describes the service, the service standards and reports on

achievements in the previous year.

Cost of Proposals

There are no individual costs of the service plan, aside from printing costs. The costs of providing the food enforcement service are already part of the Urban Living/Community Safety Services budget.

Risks

The approval of a Service Plan is a statutory duty; the authority would face criticism if a plan were not approved.

Implications if recommendations rejected

The approval of a Service Plan is a statutory duty; the authority would face criticism if a plan were not approved.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

The Food Standards Agency, under powers contained in the Food Standards Act 1999 has dictated that that all authorities must have a Service Plan in place. To comply with the legislation the approval has to be at a member level. The plan must be presented in a standardised format according to the Food Standards Agency guidance and we have no discretion in this respect.

The service plan will form an integral part of service planning arrangements reflecting the work at a team level and building up to the service-wide plans being developed in support of the corporate performance management framework. The Food service Plan for 2005/6 is attached and has been revised from previous years to incorporate the requirements of the Food Standards Agency Audit report in 2004/5 in full.

2.3 Consultation

Service standards within the plan will form part of consultation with stakeholders later this year. Feedback will be incorporated in revisions to the plan for future years.

2.4 Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications identified within this report as anticipated service costs and the printing costs of the Service Plan can be accommodated in existing budgets. Although considerable staff time will be expended in terms of implementation of the plan in the short term this will be achieved within current staffing.

The Plan will run in parallel with and form an integral part of the Annual Service Planning process. Potential financial implications will be identified as part of the

process of implementation and review of the service plan and will be written into the Medium Term Budget Strategy at the appropriate time.

2.5 Legal Implications

The Food Standards Agency, under powers contained in the Food Standards Act 1999 has dictated that that all authorities must have a Service Plan in place and issued service planning guidance in the “Framework Agreement on Food Law Enforcement”. This is a statutory requirement in which the council has no discretion.

The Local Government Act 2000 dictates that approval of the Service Plan, as a food enforcement issue, is an ‘Executive’ function within the authority and as such it must be approved by elected members.

2.6 Equalities Impact

The impact of the Food Service Plan was recently assessed as part of the Council’s Race Equality Scheme. On the basis of the evidence there was no adverse impact, but the reporting of the Service Plan to Cabinet and its approval were key elements in the monitoring of the food service and the overall maintenance of food standards for the whole community.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Supporting Documents: Draft Food Service Plan 2005/6.