



<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN 2005-6</b>
<b>TO/ON:</b>	<b>The Executive / 17<sup>th</sup> August 2005</b>
<b>BY:</b>	<b>Head of Street Scene and Liveability</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Peter Steen</b>
<b>STATUS:</b>	<b>For Publication</b>

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. This report has been produced to enable the Authority to fulfil a requirement of the Food Standards Agency. This Authority is required to produce a Food Law Enforcement Service Plan in accordance with a prescribed format. This is intended to provide:-

- information about the services provided in relation to food safety,
- the means by which we will provide those services
- the means by which we will meet any relevant performance targets or standards, and
- a review of performance in order to address any variance from the service plan.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That it be a recommendation to Council that the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for 2005/6 be approved.
- 2.2. That a reference be included in the Forward Plan for submission of a revised Plan at annual intervals.

## 3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement was developed in partnership with the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). The Framework Agreement consists of four elements:-

- Food Law Enforcement Standard
- Service Planning Guidance
- Monitoring Scheme
- Audit Scheme

3.2. The Standard and the Service Planning Guidance set out the Agency's expectations on the planning and delivery of food law enforcement. These expectations do not derive from new or additional targets but reflect a combination of recognised good practice and existing requirements under Statutory Codes of Practice.

3.3. The Service Plan is seen to be an important part of the process to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally. Service Plans will also:-

- Focus debate on key delivery issues
- Provide an essential link with financial planning
- Set objectives for the future, and
- Provide a means of managing performance and making performance comparisons.

The Standard requires that the Service Plan be produced and submitted for Member approval.

3.4 The Service Plan demonstrates that this Authority is providing a balanced service in relation to the "Enforcement Mix". This concept is described in Cabinet Office Guidance and includes the four common approaches to enforcement:-

- demand driven (requests for service, investigations of food poisoning etc)
- inspection driven ( inspection programme etc)
- education driven (food hygiene courses, advice to businesses, public awareness campaigns etc)
- intelligence driven ( sampling, food complaints, food hazard warnings etc)

#### **4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES**

##### **4.1. FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

4.1.1. There are no financial implications of this report. The Plan provides a framework and benchmark for future service performance and improvement.

##### **4.2. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS**

4.2.1. N/A

#### **4.3. HUMAN RESOURCES**

4.3.1. The Plan identifies a need for food safety staff to undertake routine technical training in order to maintain their competence.

#### **5. ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 The implementation of this Food Law Enforcement Service Plan contributes to a number of Corporate targets.

- By understanding the needs of all stakeholders, the service will reflect the specific needs of Rossendale and contribute to the Customer Services Strategy.
- By developing and continually improving the service, this will contribute to an improvement of the image of the Authority in the eyes of the Food Standards Agency, a previous critic of the service.
- By embedding the performance management culture and driving forwards service improvements.
- By complying in full with the Food Standards Agency requirements, the food service will contribute to a satisfactory CPA assessment.

#### **6. RISK**

6.1 The Service Plan contributes to the evidence needed for any audit of the service and needs to be in place each year. Should the Plan not be approved, with or without amendment, the expectations of the Food Standards Agency would not be fulfilled.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

7.1 None

#### **8. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT**

8.1 The Environmental Health Service is committed to meeting the needs of all its customers and will research and implement service improvements and enhancements where necessary to ensure the services are accessible and used by all users regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability or disability.

#### **9. WARDS AFFECTED**

9.1 All

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 This Plan has not been subject to consultation with stakeholders. A major consideration is that the food legislation will be changed on 1 January 2006 and details are currently still being devised. This will impact on the future service and the next Plan will need to be based on these future requirements. As this is the first plan produced in compliance with the Framework Agreement, it is intended that full consultation with stakeholders will take place during the coming year in order to modify the Plan in the light of comments and suggestions received and include expansion of the service to meet the changing public health priorities as well as the new legislation.

## **11. Background documents: Food Safety Act 1990 Code of Practice**

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

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