

Environment Policy Development Group – 25 February 2009**REVIEW OF FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN****Report of Head of Environmental Health**

Statutory Powers: Food Standards Act 1999

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Purpose

The Food Standards Agency require local authorities to produce and submit for approval a formal documented review of its Food Safety Service Plan at least once a year. This report and the attached appendix seek to fulfil this requirement.

This report links to Council Corporate Priorities CP2, CP5 and CP6.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Group RECOMMEND to the Executive that the review of the Food Safety Service Plan be approved.

Background/The Issues

1. The Food Standards Agency ('The Agency') under the terms of the Food Standards Act 1999, require local authorities to provide a Food Safety Service Plan in accordance with the Framework Agreement between the Agency and local authorities. The plan should follow the Service Planning guidance issued by the Agency.
2. The Council adopted the Food Safety Service Plan for 2007-2008 which sets out the activities of the Service, its performance and the demands placed upon it.
3. The framework agreement between the Food Standards Agency and local authorities require a performance review at least one a year based on the Service Plan, documented and submitted for appropriate Member approval.
4. The review is set out in the **Appendix** to this report from which it can be seen that targets set for 2007/08 were met and there is an adequate standard of service provision. It identifies additional areas of work undertaken and emerging initiatives that the Council needs to embrace and manage resources accordingly.

Risk Assessment

Opportunity	Issues/Obstacles	Benefits
The adoption of this review enables the Council to fulfil its legal requirement with the Food Standards Agency and demonstrates that it can keep abreast and manage current and future demand on its statutory food safety function	Failure to have in place a current food safety service plan is unlikely to show that the service is managed appropriately and that resources/demands fail to be allocated for effective service delivery	To demonstrate that we are capable of delivering a cost effective service, able to embrace changing service demands and safeguard the consumer whilst reducing the risk liability of local business

Conclusion

This review shows the changing demands on the Council's Food Safety Service and seeks to identify how it can be fit for the future and at the same time meet statutory requirements

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Environment Policy Development Group
25 February 2009

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Background Documents:

The Food Standards Agency Act 1999; and
Local Authority Framework Agreement