
FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2007/08

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Nick Wallis, Health and Leisure Portfolio

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval of the Food Safety Enforcement Plan.

Outcome of Consultation

2. Consultation has not been carried out so far but the plan will be considered by Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting to be held on 4 December 2007.

Background

3. The Council is a Food Enforcement Authority as defined in the Food Safety Act 1990 and is required to prepare and publish an annual Food Safety Enforcement Plan.
4. The Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2007/08, attached as **Appendix 1**, has been prepared in accordance with “The Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement” published by the Food Standards Agency in February 2001 (as amended July 2004). It identifies the Council’s service aims and objectives, demands on the food service, our enforcement policy, and service delivery issues relating to work programmed for the year ahead.

Information and Analysis

5. The Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2007/08 provides the framework within which the Public Protection Division (and specifically Environment Health and Trading Standards) organise and deliver food safety related functions. The plan identifies the organisational structure, access to services, enforcement policy, and sets aims and objectives for the following functional areas:
 - (a) Food Safety (composition, labelling and hygiene).
 - (b) Drinking water.
 - (c) Infectious disease control.
 - (d) Animal health and welfare (animal feeding stuffs).
6. It also identifies the resources that will be deployed to deliver relevant services and a planned inspection regime for the year.

7. The Food Safety Enforcement Plan is part of the Council's policy framework.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report represent a change to the Council's policy framework.

Conclusion

11. The Food Safety Enforcement Plan lays down the Council's approach to managing and delivering key food safety activities and forms part of the Council's policy framework.

Recommendation

12. Council are requested to approve the plan.

Reasons

13. The recommendation is supported to meet the requirements of the Food Safety Act 1990.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

Framework Agreement Number 4 published by Food Standards Agency 2004.

Appendix 1

Food Law Enforcement Plan 2007/08

Barry Pearson Extension 2560