
FOOD SAFETY REVIEW GROUP

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker,
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to food standards and food hygiene.

Information and Analysis

2. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7th February, 2006 established a Task and Finish Review Group to examine food safety in relation to food standards and food hygiene.
3. A meeting of the Group was held on Monday, 27th March, 2006 and it was agreed to progress investigations by way of a full Review which was approved by the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 4th April, 2006.
4. Monitoring and Co-ordination Group gave its approval for this Review on 4th April, 2006.
5. The detailed findings of the Group are outlined in the attached report (**Appendix 1**).
6. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27th March, 2007, accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the Review Group and agreed to forward the following recommendations to Cabinet :-
 - (a) This Scrutiny Committee endorses the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme and recommend it be launched in Darlington and requests that a high importance be given to the publication of the scheme.
 - (b) Officers examine ways of improving communications with the trade.
 - (c) Continue to work towards the concept of Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme and liaise with the other Tees Valley Authorities who are in the process of signing up.

- (d) Examine ways of improving public awareness of food safety issues within Darlington and actively seek to promote these issues, especially within schools.
- (e) That, should a Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme system be introduced, premises be able to request additional inspections outside the routine inspection programme, however, the cost of such inspection to be met by the individual premises.
- (f) That this Scrutiny Committee examine further by way of Review, the feasibility of introducing a scheme specifically for public toilets.
- (g) That the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor the progress of the Tees Valley Hygiene Award Scheme initiative.

Director of Development and Environment's Comments

- 7. The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee are broadly supported although the suggestion of additional inspections and a scheme for Public Conveniences may have financial implications which will need to be further investigated.

Outcome of Consultation

- 8. In undertaking this Review the Group consulted various people which included Darlington Borough Council's staff, third party potential providers and other Local Authority Providers and their comments were taken into consideration when compiling the final report.

Legal Implications

- 9. 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

- 10. 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

- 11. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

- 12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that :-

- (a) The recommendations of the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be noted.
- (b) The comments of the Director of Development and Environment be endorsed.

Reasons

14. The recommendations are supported to enable the recommendations of the Review Group to be considered and the comments of the relevant Director to be endorsed.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used other than those referred to in the report.

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