

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2006/2007 REPORT NO.

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:
Council 20th September 2006

REPORT OF:
Director of Environment, Street
Scene and Parks

Agenda – Part: 1	Item:
Subject: FOOD SAFETY: SUBMISSION OF FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2006/07 FOR APPROVAL	
Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Terence Neville	

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Food Safety service plan, shown in abridged form at appendix 1, is submitted for approval in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law enforcement, made under the Food Standards Act 1999. A copy of the full report has been placed in the Members library, both group offices and on the Council's website.
- 1.2 This sets out clear mandatory guidance on Local Authority Food Safety performance and service planning.
- 1.3 The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement requires that the Food Service Plan is submitted annually to Members for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Food Safety Service Plan 2006/07 be agreed by the Council, as required by the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement;

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Food Safety service plan, shown in abridged form at appendix 1, is submitted for approval in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law enforcement, made under the Food Standards Act 1999. A copy of the full report has been placed in the Members library, both group offices and on the Council's website. The Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement specifies the information required to be in the Food Service Plan. This includes a description of the scope and activities undertaken by the Service, the expected demand on the resources of the Service, a review of the previous years' performance and identification of areas for improvement for the subsequent year.
- 3.2 The Food Safety Section deals with a wide range of issues such as food hygiene, food standards, health and safety in food premises, infectious disease control, food sampling, water quality, animal feedingstuffs and licensing consultations. This involves undertaking inspections, investigating complaints and accidents and undertaking enforcement.
- 3.3 There are approximately 2252 food premises in the Borough; comprising caterers (65%), retailers (28%) other (7%). There are 9 premises approved under product specific legislation (e.g. meat product manufacturers).
- 3.4 The priority of the food safety section is preventive action. There has been a year on year improvement in food hygiene inspection performance since 1999/00. The target of 100% for food hygiene inspection of premises due for inspection has been achieved since 2003/4. Resources are targeted towards the highest risk inspections and complaint work. As a result of the effective targeting of resources, there has been a halving of the number of highest risk premises since 2000.
- 3.5 2005/6 performance included:
- 100% achievement of food hygiene inspection programme
 - Increased demand in reactive work (complaints, food alerts, license consultations and infectious disease investigations)
 - Maintenance of the number of investigations which will lead to legal proceedings compared to 2004/05
 - Maintenance of food standards inspections compared to 2004/05
 - Increase in the number of health and safety inspections compared to 2004/05

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Council approval of the Food Safety Service Plan is required by the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The Director of Environment, Streetscene and Parks has confirmed that all costs can be met from existing budgets.

6.2 Legal Implications

The submission of the annual Food Service Plan for the approval of elected Members is a requirement of the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement issued by the Food Standards Agency pursuant to the Food Standards Act 1999. The constitution requires this plan to be submitted to full Council. Once approved the plan will form the basis on which food safety services are carried out by the Council.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATOINS

7.1 The Food Safety Service Plan is implemented and monitored to maintain standards of food safety at food premises throughout the Borough to ensure they are hygienic and do not pose a risk to health. This links to the corporate objectives and the corporate priority of making a safer Enfield to live, work, study and do business.

7.2 The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law enforcement requires the Council to plan, manage and deliver its food law enforcement services. The Food Standards Agency require the performance against the plan required to be reviewed by the Council at least once a year and submitted for appropriate member approval.

8. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

The objectives in the Food Safety Service Plan contribute towards Corporate objectives and Putting Enfield First.

Background Papers

None