

Food Safety Law Enforcement Service Plan 2015-17

*PART A

Report to: Licensing Committee
Date of meeting: 4th March 2015
Report of: Head of Community and Customer Services
Title: Food Safety Law Enforcement Service Plan 2015-17

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report and attachment contains the details of the Food Safety Law Enforcement Plan 2015-17 as required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), a government body, to demonstrate the authorities' arrangements for food safety enforcement which address local needs and national priorities.
- 1.2 This plan requires formal approval by the members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee recommends the Food Safety Law Enforcement Plan to Council for approval, subject to any amendments suggested by the Committee.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact:
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Report approved by: Alan Gough, Head of Community and Customer Services.

3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement, in addition to requiring local authorities to have policies and procedures relating to food enforcement, requires that a Food Safety Law Enforcement Service Plan is produced and submitted to members for approval.
- 3.2 This Service Plan forms the basis on which local authorities will be monitored and audited by the FSA to ensure consistency and effectiveness. It also allows local authorities to plan and resource their food safety enforcement work.
- 3.3 The Service Plan attached follows the format and guidance laid out in the Framework Agreement. This is to enable the FSA to easily assess our delivery of the service and to allow comparison of Plans between local authorities for benchmarking purposes.

3.4 The Service Plan covers the following areas of work:

- Proactive inspections of food premises
- Dealing with complaints about food premises or about food that has been bought or eaten
- The Primary Authority scheme
- Giving food-related advice to businesses
- Food sampling
- Investigation of food-related outbreaks and cases of infectious disease
- Dealing with food alerts and incidents
- Liaison with other organisations
- Food safety promotional work
- Issuing health certificates

3.5 There have been several high profile food poisoning outbreaks nationally in recent years, so food safety enforcement work is important in ensuring that the food that the public are eating or buying in Watford is safe.

In addition, good standards of food safety will be reflected in better Food Hygiene Ratings, which are visible to the public. Having better Ratings will make Watford food businesses more attractive to visitors and more likely to be successful.

3.6 The service plan demonstrates the variety of work that is undertaken within the section alongside other health and safety, housing enforcement, environmental protection, licensing, animal control, envirocrime and public health work.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance advised that other than confirming the budget for this area of work, they had no comments on the service plan or the report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that as this document is part of the Council's policy framework it is required to be approved by full Council

4.4 **Potential Risks**

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
<i>Insufficient resources to deliver food enforcement work, leading to poorer standard in businesses, lower ratings and more cases of infectious disease. Associated poor publicity and increased scrutiny from the Food Standards Agency</i>	2	3	6

<i>Those risks scoring 9 or above are considered significant and will need specific attention in project management. They will also be added to the service's Risk Register.</i>			
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Appendices

- The Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2015-17

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

- Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement, September 2000 (as amended)
- Regulators Compliance Code
- Environmental Health and Licensing Section enforcement policy 2014-2019
- Food Safety Act 1990 Code of Practice and Practice Guidance

File Reference

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