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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 14 JULY 2011**

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### **COSP.55/11 FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN**

Councillor Mrs Luckley returned to the meeting.

The Environmental Health Manager (Mr Burns) submitted report LE.14/11 providing details of the Food Law Enforcement Plan covering the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

Mr Burns explained that the Plan linked to the key priority actions of the Council's Corporate Plan and also sought to direct resources into achieving the priority outcomes for regulatory services as detailed in the Local Better Regulation Office's consultations document "Priority Regulatory Outcomes - A New Approach to Refreshing the National Enforcement Priorities for Local Authority Regulatory Services" (February 2011). The Plan sat within the full Environmental Health Service Plan which included the General Plan, the Health and Safety Plan and the Environmental Protection Plan.

In improving food standards the Environmental Health Service was contributing towards ensuring a safe, healthy and sustainable food chain for the benefit of consumers. Service Plans were an important part of the process to ensure that national priorities and standards were addressed and delivered locally.

Mr Burns informed Members that, although the Food Standards Agency's Food Law Codes of Practice detailed national food policy, it did afford local authorities an element of flexibility over how to deliver the national food controls. The Plan set out how and at what level official food controls would be provided in accordance with the Codes of Practice. He added that the Food Law Code of Practice recommended that food service plans were approved at the relevant level established for the local authority with a view to ensuring local transparency and accountability, and to show the Service's contribution to the authority's Corporate Plan.

The matter was considered by Executive on 27 June 2011 (EX.066/11).

The decision of the Executive was:

‘That the Executive supported the key actions of the Environmental Health Service’s Food Law Enforcement Plan and the General Plan 2011 to 2012 and, in line with the Council’s Policy Framework, made the report available for consideration by the Community overview and Scrutiny Panel.’

In considering the update report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Were there the necessary resources available within the Environmental Health Team to carry out the Service Plan?

Mr Burns explained that the Plan had been prepared using the existing resources; if the resources changed in 2012/13 then the Plan would change to accommodate this. If there was an emergency that called on extra resources from the section then there would be some delay to the delivery of the Plan.

- The appendices have a column for progress; it would be useful to have any reasons for any delays in reaching the targets recorded here.

Mr Burns responded that the document was a working document that would be placed on the internet and updated regularly, this would include reasons for any delays. Mr Burns added that it was hoped that the new Plan would be more engaging and would provide better links with the Council's Corporate Plan. It was also hoped that the Plan would allow for the section to use their skills to improve environmental health across the community.

- Was there any onus on traders who sold food to support the clean up of the area they traded in?

Assistant Food Health and Safety Manager (Mr Edwards) confirmed that there was no responsibility on the food trader once the customer had left the premises. One of the Environmental Health's priority was to monitor where food waste went. The Local Environment Directorate was responsible for the street cleaning and would have more information.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder commented that the clean up of certain areas within the City Centre following the weekend had previously been difficult as the Council did not have the proper equipment but this was being rectified.

RESOLVED – That the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan be welcomed.