

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- Carlisle City Council
Date of Meeting:- Tuesday 17th July 2012

Agenda Item No:-

Public

Title:- FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN
Report of:- The Director of Local Environment
Report reference:- LE21/12

Summary:-

The Food Law Enforcement Plan sets out how the Environmental Health Service will deploy its resources in 2012 to 2013 to prevent food borne diseases and help people live healthier lives. It seeks to target intervention to tackle local issues whilst ensuring Carlisle City Council achieves its national responsibilities.

Recommendation:-

That Council

- i. Approve the Environmental Health Service Food Law Enforcement Plan and the General Plan 2012 to 2012, in accordance with the Council's Budget & Policy Framework.

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Director of Local Environment

05 July 2012

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The Food Law Enforcement Plan (the Plan) sets out how the Environmental Health Service will improve food safety during 2012 to 2013. The Plan (appendix.1.) links to the key priority actions of the Corporate Plan and also seeks to direct resources into achieving the priority outcomes for regulatory services as detailed in the Better Regulation Delivery Office document “Priority Regulatory Outcomes – A New Approach to Refreshing the National Enforcement Priorities for Local Authority Regulatory Services” (November 2011). The Plan sits within the full Environmental Health Service Plan which includes the General Plan (appendix.2.), the Health and Safety Plan, the Environmental Protection Plan and the Education and Enforcement Plan.
- 1.2 In improving food standards the Environmental Health Service is contributing to ensuring a safe, healthy and sustainable food chain for the benefit of consumers. Service plans are an important part of the process to ensure that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally. Service plans help local authorities to:
- follow the principles of good regulation;
 - focus on key delivery issues and outcomes;
 - provide an essential link with corporate and financial planning;
 - set objectives for the future, and identify major issues that cross service boundaries;
 - provide a means of managing performance and making performance comparisons;
 - Provide information on an authority’s service delivery to stakeholders, including businesses and consumers.
- 1.3 The Food Standards Agency’s Food Law Codes of Practice details national food policy but allows local authorities flexibility over how to deliver the national food controls. The Plan sets out how and at what level official food controls will be provided, in accordance with the Codes of Practice. The “Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities” (2010) sets out what the Food Standard Agency expects from Carlisle City Council in delivering official controls on feed and food law.
- 1.4 To help to ensure local transparency and accountability, and to show the Service’s contribution to the authority’s Corporate Plan, the Framework Agreement recommends that food service plans are approved at the relevant level established

for that local authority. The Food Law Enforcement Service Plan is in Carlisle City Council's revised Policy Framework in Article 4 of the Constitution.

- 1.5 The Plan covers the period between 1st April 2012 and the 31st March 2013 and includes targeted educational and promotional work under taken by the section along with the required food premise inspections.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Consultation to Date. - The Plan has been drafted in consultation with Officers in the Environmental Health Department. The Plan was considered by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 7th June 2012.
- 2.2 Consultation proposed. – Nothing further

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Council:-

Approve the Environmental Health Service Food Law Enforcement Plan and the General Plan 2012 to 2012, in accordance with the Council's Budget & Policy Framework.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The recommended key actions have been identified following consultation and reflect the resources available to the Environmental Health Service in the financial year 2012 to 2013.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – The key actions in the Service Plan can be met from existing staffing and resources.
- Financial – The costs associated with implementing the Environmental Health Food Law Enforcement Plan and General Plan can be met from the existing budgets of the Local Environmental Directorate for 2012/13.

- Legal – The Council has a Food Law Enforcement Service Plan in accordance with the Food Standard Agency's Framework Agreement which applies to local enforcement of all feed and food laws, and incorporates the latest guidance and standards on feed and food law enforcement. As stated in the report, the Service Plan forms part of the Council's revised Policy Framework and, as such, requires consideration by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel (7th June 2012) before being referred for approval to Council by the Executive.
- Corporate – The Food Law Enforcement Plan links to Key Action 11: Work with partners to achieve the targets in the Health Improvement Action Plan. Champion the development of the Healthy Cities work programme through awareness raising, target setting and monitoring.
- Risk Management – The Environmental Health Service completed the Corporate Risk Assessment through Covalent in April 2012. The only risk identified which flagged red was the loss of skilled staff. The loss of competent staff will affect the delivery of the Service Plan.
- Equality and Disability – The Environmental Health Service in May 2011 revised its Impact Assessment Form. There are no equality or diversity issues associated with this report.
- Environmental – No issues associated with this report.
- Crime and Disorder – Persuasion and regulatory powers will be used to tackle breaches of food safety legislation in line with the Service Enforcement Policy.
- Impact on Customers – The key actions for preventing food borne diseases and working towards healthier lives will have positive benefits to customers of Carlisle City Council.

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	No	
Disability	No	
Race	No	
Gender/ Transgender	No	
Sexual Orientation	No	
Religion or belief	No	
Human Rights	No	
Health inequalities	No	
Rurality	No	

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

The Environmental Health Service in May revised its Impact Assessment Form. There are no equality or diversity issues associated with this report.

Food Law Enforcement Service Plan

Link to the Corporate Plan: **Key Action 11: Work with partners to achieve the targets in the Health Improvement Action Plan. Champion the development of the Healthy Cities work programme through awareness raising, target setting and monitoring.**

Priority Outcomes:

- 1. Ensure a safe, healthy and sustainable food chain for the benefit of consumers and the rural economy**
- 2. Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health.**

Outcome	Key Actions	2011/12 Performance:	Target 2012/13	Progress:
Food Safety and Healthier lives	Inspect 100% food businesses at intervals in accordance with the Food Standard's Agencies Code of Practice and educate and enforce where necessary.	97%	100%	

Food Safety and Healthier lives	Work toward increasing the number of “broadly compliant” food businesses	93.5%	95%	Corporate Indicator LE050
Food Safety and Healthier lives	Continue to work with and promote the National Food Hygiene Rating System.	Successfully transferred from Scores on the Doors	Compliance with the Food Standard Agencies branding agreement	Ongoing – food.gov.uk/ratings
Food Safety and Healthier lives	To sample foodstuffs for microbiological safety in accordance with local and national need	100%	100%	
Food Safety and Healthier lives	To actively take part in Cumbria Food Liaison Group plan of work	Full Contribution and Attendance at meetings and development of Action Plan	Full Contribution and Attendance at meetings and development of Action Plan	

Food Safety and Healthier lives	Undertake basic food hygiene training for hard to reach groups	2 training events completed with 100% pass rate	2 training events for hard to reach groups	Press promotion and Web page updated
Food Safety and Healthier lives	Participate in “public health” related activity as requested by partners such as the Primary Care Trust, the Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency.	Food Safety Week and Healthy Cities initiatives	At least one campaign per year.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May – Workforce Learning Day – Food Safety and Your BBQ 2. June - Food Safety Week 2012 – Hand Hygiene Promotion. 3. December - Christmas Food Safety Campaign.
	Review and refresh the Food Enforcement Policy	Cumbria wide draft obtained	New Policy Adopted	Draft available

Appendix.2.

General Service Plan

Link to the Corporate Plan

Key Action 4: Develop and deliver an area based approach to improve the quality of the local environment– including air quality, contaminated land, clean and well maintained streets and open spaces.

Key Action 11: Work with partners to achieve the targets in the Healthy City, Health Improvement Action Plan. Champion the development of the Healthy Cities work programme through awareness raising, target setting and monitoring.

Priority Outcomes:

- 1. Support economic growth, especially in small businesses, by ensuring a fair, responsible and competitive trading environment.**
- 2. Improve quality of life and well being by ensuring clean and safe neighbourhoods.**
- 3. Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health.**

Outcome	Key Action	2011/12 Performance:	Target 2012/13	Progress:
Out of Hours Working	Provide an informal public health out of hour's service where circumstances necessitate.			Arrangements made for food hygiene inspections and special events Environmental Health Manager on the

				emergency contact lists:HPA:Fire; Emergency Planning
Business support	Use the Department's face to face contact with Carlisle Businesses to promote business information.	New	80 % Satisfaction of businesses with Regulatory service	PI to be approved
	Improve communication between the County's Regulatory Services and the Local Enterprise Partnerships through working through Cumbria's Public Protection Group.	Full representation at Public Protection Group Meetings.	Full representation and contribution at Public Protection Group Meetings.	Carlisle hosted the April meeting. Action Plan produced.
	Review the Council's Web Site to ensure information to the public is relevant and accessible and facilitates e-government for accessing application forms etc and specifying service provision and charges.	Front pages reviewed.	December 2012 All pages reviewed and refreshed.	Food Safety Pages refreshed – April
Healthier Lives	Work with the Healthy Communities Working Group on actions in delivering the Healthy Cities Improvement Action Plan.	Contributions to Healthy Cities Week and Food Safety training	At least one coordinated campaign	May - Attendance at smokefree event Kendal Oct – Noise at Work

Customer care	To respond to all service requests within 5 working days	92%	100%	
	Respond to consultations from Licensing and Planning within 28 days.	99%	100%	
	Contribute to the Multi Agency "Problem Solving Groups"	Attendance at meetings and contributions made	Active assistance to the Licensing Best Bar None Scheme Attendance at the Street Safe Schemes	