CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING

Date of Meeting: **26th JULY 2011**

Public

Key Decision: **Yes** **Recorded in Forward Plan:** **Yes**

Inside Policy Framework

Title: **FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN**
Report of: **The Assistant Director Local Environment**
Report reference: **LE16/11**

Summary: The Food Law Enforcement Plan sets out how the Environmental Health Service will deploy its resources in 2011 to 2012 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.

Recommendations:

That the Executive:

i. agree the key actions of the Environmental Health Service's Food Law Enforcement Plan and the General Plan 2011 to 2012; and

ii. Refer the said plans to Council for approval in accordance with the Council's Budget & Policy Framework

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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 will be during 2011 to 2012. 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 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 sits within the full Environmental Health Service Plan which includes the General Plan (appendix.2.), the Health and Safety Plan and the Environmental Protection 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.

1.4 To help to ensure local transparency and accountability, and to show the Service's contribution to the authority's Corporate Plan, the Food Law Code of Practice 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 2011 and the 31st March 2012 and increases the amount of targeted educational and promotional work under taken by the section, whilst retaining the time spent on food premise inspections.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date. - The Plan has been drafted in consultation with Officers in the Environmental Health Department.

2.2 Consultation proposed. - The Plan is to be considered by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 14th July 2011.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1
That the Executive:

i. agree the key actions of the Environmental Health Service's Food Law Enforcement Plan and the General Plan 2011 to 2012; and
ii. Refer the said plans to Council for approval 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 2011 to 2012.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – The key actions in the Service Plan can be met from existing staffing and resources.

- Financial – The Environmental Health Food Law Enforcement Plan and General Plan can be met from the existing budgets of the Environmental Health Service for 2011/12.

- 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 (14 July 2011) 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 2011. 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 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.

Appendix .1.

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	2010/11 Performance:	Target 2011/12	Progress: July 2011
Preventing food borne diseases through better food hygiene and safety	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%	

	Work toward increasing the number of “broadly compliant” food businesses	92%	95%	**Corporate indicator LE050**
Preventing food borne diseases through better food hygiene and safety	Continue to subscribe to and promote “Scores on the Doors” but work towards introducing the National Food Hygiene Rating System.			**Corporate Action ACP-011-CE01** Funding from FSA agreed. Discussions ongoing with the Cumbria Food Safety regarding implementation.
AND	To sample foodstuffs for microbiological safety in accordance with local and National need	100%	100%	100% Sampling programme from Health Protection Agency being followed.
Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health	To actively take part in Cumbria Food Liaison Group plan of work		Action Plan to be agreed in accordance with Carlisle City Councils priorities	Attendance and contributions made at the Cumbria Food Liaison Group

Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health	Undertake basic food hygiene training for hard to reach groups	No previous target.	Two external events held in 2011 /12	Carlisle registered as an approved centre. Two Officers completed training to allow them to deliver the “Basic Food Hygiene” training course.
	Along with responding by investigating confirmed cases of infectious disease we will review the data held by the Health Protection Agency for Carlisle, in order to determine where best to target our resources to preventing infections.	No previous target.	One targeted campaign aimed at risk groups.	Data received from HPA – small sampling indicating nursery age children and 60+ age groups at greatest risk.

Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health	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.	No previous target.	One campaign per year.	Food Safety Week – 6th June Food hygiene presentations undertaken at toddler groups. Display and competition in Civic Centre.

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. Improve quality of life and well being by ensuring clean and safe public spaces.
2. Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health.

Output	Key Action	2010/11 Performance:	Target 2011/12	Progress: July 2011
Improve quality of life and well being by ensuring clean and safe public spaces.	To respond to all service requests within 5 working days	91%	100%	96%
	Respond to consultations from Licensing and Planning within 28 days.	83%	100%	

Improve quality of life and well being by ensuring clean and safe public spaces. **AND** **Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health**	Identify opportunities to work with the Multi Agency Partnership (MAPS) Monitor the destination of commercial waste from regulated premises. 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.	N/A	Number of projects Identified. July -Flare records amended to record data August – data collection May 2011 Environmental Health front page reviewed and refreshed. June – October remaining pages reviewed and refreshed	Completed – Service Plan and Enforcement policies to be added once they have been reviewed. Ongoing

Help people live healthier lives by preventing ill health and harm and promoting public health	Work with the Healthy Communities Working Group on actions in delivering the Healthy Cities Improvement Action Plan.	N/A	Environmental Health Manager to attend the Healthy Communities Group and contribute to the Health Improvement Plan	
	Use the Department's face to face contact with Carlisle Businesses to promote business information.	N/A	Meeting with Business Link October 2011 review letters, leaflets and web to link to business support.	Completed. 12th April meeting Business Link being reviewed – to review progress in November to ensure correct contact details given. **(Corporate Action ACP -010-ED4)**

	Increase support from the Customer Contact Centre Develop the use of Civica Flare system		Processes re-engineered to accept payment on line or through the telephone and seamless working between the contact centre's and Environmental Health databases. August 2011 Training needs identified. January 2011 version 8 Upgrades	May 2011 draft Project Initiation document produced. June – 1st Meeting of the project Group July – Codes forwarded to IT for systems integration. Completed – on the job training on going