
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2011

EX.066/11 FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN
(Key Decision)

Portfolio Environment and Housing

Subject Matter

The Environmental Health Manager submitted report LE.10/11 providing details of the Food Law Enforcement Plan covering the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. He 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.

The Environmental Health Manager 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.

In conclusion he referred Members to the recommendations set out in the report, clarifying that the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel was scheduled to consider the matter at their next meeting on 14 July 2011.

The Performance and Development Portfolio Holder questioned whether the National Food Hygiene Rating System would replace the excellent "Scores on the Doors" Scheme and, if so, expressed the hope that standards would not decline as a result of such a move.

In response, the Environmental Health Manager explained that the Food Standards Agency was moving towards a five number rating system. Grant funding had been obtained which would enable the change to take place in 2012.

The Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder commented upon the importance of educating people on the new system as that came on line. He then moved the Officer's recommendation.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

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.

Reasons for Decision

The recommended key actions had been identified following consultation and reflected the resources available to the Environmental Health Service in the financial year 2011 to 2012.