

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 52

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2012/13		
Date of Meeting:	ECSOSC 7 March 2012 Cabinet 15 March 2012		
Report of:	Planning and Public Protection		
Lead Cabinet Member:	Communities, Equalities and Public Protection		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nick Wilmot	Tel: 29-2157
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Key Decision:	Yes/No	Forward Plan No: CAB 21128	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Cabinet and full Council are asked to agree the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan previously known as Food Law Enforcement Service Plan required by the Food Standards Agency.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 ECSOSC is recommended to comment on the Plan.
- 2.2 *(Cabinet is recommended to agree the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2012/2013 set out in the appendix to this report and to commend it to Full Council for approval.)*

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement requires the production and publication of a service plan. Every local authority is required to develop an annual food enforcement service plan, which provides the basis on which local authorities are monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency.
- 3.2 To ensure local transparency and accountability, it is a requirement that the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan is submitted to the relevant member forum for approval.

- 3.3 The attached plan (Appendix 1) is an integral part of the organisation of Regulatory Services within Planning and Public Protection.
- 3.4 In accordance with the Standard outlined in the Framework Agreement the food service is a mix of enforcement, intelligence based work, investigation and education. It is planned that a performance targets of completion of 98% of programmed food safety interventions and 90% of service requests responded to within 5 days.
- 3.5 In addition, areas of current good practice, and opportunities for further improvement, have been identified, both in Food Safety and Food Standards, in section 6.3 of the Service Plan. The targeting of resources to these areas of work aims to provide a balanced mix of services, which is most likely to benefit the business sector, consumers and other stakeholders. In line with the amendment to the Food Safety Code of Practice in June 2008 the service will continue to focus enforcement action on the poorer performing businesses.
- 3.6 A healthy food award scheme has been developed to improve healthy life expectancy and tackle obesity. Health Development Advisers also provide NHS vascular risk assessments (health checks).
- 3.7 Migration to the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme from the local Scores on the Doors Scheme for publicising food safety standards of local businesses has had resulted in a significant resource pressure from 1st January 2012. This pressure will create an ongoing pressure. Further details are given in 6.1 and 6.3 of Annex A.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Brighton & Hove Food Partnership were consulted during the drafting of this plan.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 **Food Safety:** The proposed detailed budget for 2012-13 for providing the Food Safety Service within Environmental Health is detailed below. The staffing figures include a figure to cover the appropriate proportion of the Head of Environmental Health & Licensing and administrative support:-

Staffing	£545,460
Transport	£ 13,870
Supplies and Services	<u>£ 18,930</u>
	<u>£578,260</u>

Food Standards: It is difficult to detail the time spent on the food standards function, as it is carried out during a comprehensive assessment. Time monitoring is not currently used to apportion time to the food function. The cost of the food standards function in 2011/12 was as follows based on the percentage of time officers spend on the food function. Similar apportionments would be expected for 2012/13.

Inspection, complaints and advice	
Management Support	£ 3,200
Food Team	<u>£30,120</u>

Total £33,320

Sampling

Purchases £ 500

Analysis £ 9,500

Total £10,000

TOTAL **£43,320**

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Karen Brookshaw Date: 23/02/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Food Standards Agency places a requirement on local authorities to develop and submit a service plan. Local authorities are audited and assessed by the Food Standards Agency on the basis of their food law enforcement service as provided for in their Service Plans. The Food Safety Act 1990 (Code of Practice) places a requirement on local authorities to operate an inspection rating scheme, which determines frequency of intervention of food premises. The Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2012/13 identifies the planned number of interventions for that period.
- 5.3 The Council's Constitution requires the adoption of the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan to be reserved to full Council. It is for Cabinet, following consultation with relevant stakeholders and overview and scrutiny, to formulate the Service Plan for submission to full Council for approval.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 14 February 2012

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. See 2.4.5 of appendix 1 for profile of food premises registering with the food service during the year 2011/2012. The service is mindful of the greater assistance food business operators require where their first language is not English. Written information, translation and interpreting services are employed where necessary to assist businesses to comply with regulatory requirements.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.5 Liaison with relevant agencies in connection with local food initiatives, including the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 SMART targets for the food safety service is 98% of due food safety interventions achieved and 85 % of food businesses deemed to be 'broadly compliant'.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.8 The Food and Feed Service Plan is seen as key to protecting public health in the City. It is in line with the stated outcome to 'reduce health inequalities and long standing public health issues' as part of the priority of tackling inequalities which states that 'we will continue with high profile enforcement of food and health and safety rules, maintaining our excellent record of environmental health improvements.'

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.9 See 1.2 of appendix 1

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 There is no legal alternative to the statutory service plan.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 In order to comply with the Food Standard Agency Code of Practice.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices: 1. Draft Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2012/2013