

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2014/15</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> March 2014</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Environment, Development &amp; Housing</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Nick Wilmot</b>	<b>Tel: 292157</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>nick.wilmot@brighton-hove.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 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 That the committee agrees the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2014/2015 set out in the appendix to this report.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 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 A) 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. The service will continue to focus enforcement action on the poorer performing businesses.

- 3.6 It is pleasing to note that the general standard of hygiene attained by local businesses continues to improve with the number of those deemed 'broadly compliant', achieving a standard of 3 or more out of 5 on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), rising from 91.4% in December 2012 to 92.9 in January 2014.
- 3.7 Unfortunately against the general trend it is concerning that the number of prosecutions undertaken for food hygiene offences for the current year has increased from an average of three to four a year to six between April 2013 and January 2014. A significant number of these prosecutions have been as a result of mouse or rat infestations. This may have been due to a number of factors including poor management and economic difficulties.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

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

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The planning process is governed by the national Food Safety Framework Agreement and so follows the same format each year. In past years draft plans have been circulated to the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, the Brighton & Hove Citizens panel and Regulatory Services Peer Review.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 That the committee agrees the Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2014/2015 set out in the appendix to this report.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The costs associated with implementing and enforcing the proposed Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2014/15 will be met from the Food Safety revenue budget within Environmental Health. The proposed 2014/15 budget for the Food Safety service is £581k, which is subject to approval as part of the budget proposals to Budget Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Steven Bedford*

*Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014*

##### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 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 2014/15 identifies the planned number of interventions for that period.

Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 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 2012/2013. 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:

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

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.4 None

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. The Official Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2014/15

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

None

**Background Documents**

None