



Leicester
City Council

CABINET

30 July 2001

**Leicester City Council's
Service Plan for Food Enforcement 2001/2002**

Report of the Director of Environment, Development and Commercial Services

1. Purpose of Report

To present the Service Plan for Food Enforcement 2001/2002 and endorsement of it by Cabinet with a recommendation that it is approved.

2. Summary

2.1 This report presents the Council's first annual plan for food related enforcement activities.

2.2 The City Council is required by the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement to have a member endorsed service plan setting out its local regulatory activity in food manufacture, preparation, distribution and retail. This is a new requirement on the authority which came into effect on 1 April 2001. The Framework Agreement was developed by an Agency chaired group with local authority officers' involvement and was subject to extensive consultation.

2.3 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) was set up on 3 April 2000 to protect public health from risks which may arise in connection with the consumption of food, and otherwise to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food. One of the key roles of the FSA is to oversee local authority enforcement and the powers to enable the Agency to monitor and audit local authorities are contained in the Food Standards Act 1999.

2.4 The Service Plan is an important element in the FSA's monitoring arrangements to ensure that national priorities and performance standards are addressed and delivered locally. The Service Plan will also:

- Focus national and local debate on key delivery issues;
- Inform local financial planning;
- Set objectives for the future;
- Help identify major issues that cross service boundaries;
- Provide a means of managing performance;
- Assist in undertaking inter-authority comparisons.

- 2.5** The FSA does not prescribe the activities to be undertaken by the local authority. However, the local authority is expected to document in the Service Plan its commitment to apply an 'enforcement mix' (complaint investigation, pro-active monitoring through inspections and sampling, intelligence from the trade and community, training and education) which meets local needs and conditions.
- 2.6** Leicester City Council's Service Plan for Food Enforcement follows the general format for service plans set out in the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement and is in keeping with service plans produced by other local authorities.
- 2.7** Food regulatory activities are undertaken by officers in the Food & Community Public Health Service and the Consumer Protection Service. The Service Plan for Food Enforcement is a composite extracted from the Service Plans of the Food & Community Public Health Service and the Consumer Protection Service.
- 2.8** There are some 2400 food related businesses and premises operating in Leicester which fall within the remit of Leicester City Council's regulatory obligations.
- 2.9** The Service Plan for Food Enforcement will be made available to businesses and consumers in Leicester.
- 2.10** The Service Plan will reviewed annually. Any significant variances or areas for improvement will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Environment.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** It is recommended the Service Plan for Food Enforcement for 2001/2002 be approved by Cabinet .

4. Financial and Legal Implications

The cost of the work programmes and activities set out in the Service Plan for Food Enforcement will be met from the cost centre budgets. There are no additional financial implications. There are no legal implications arising out of this report.

5. Equal Opportunity Implications

There are no equal opportunity implications in this report.

6. Sustainability and Environmental Implications

There are no sustainability and equal opportunity implications in this report.

7. Report Author/Officer to contact:

Roman Leszczyszyn, Head of Consumer Protection (Extn 6590)
Malcolm Grange, Head of Food & Community Public Health (Extn 6475)