



Leicester
City Council

**CABINET
COUNCIL**

**5 JUNE 2002
11 JULY 2002**

**Protecting Food Safety and Standards
Leicester City Councils'
Service Plan for Food Enforcement
2002/2003**

Report of the Director of Environment Regeneration and Development

1. Purpose of Report

To present the Service Plan for Food Enforcement 2002/2003 for endorsement by Cabinet and recommendation to Council that it is approved.

2. Summary

2.1 This report presents the Council's second annual plan for food related enforcement activities. It attempts to show both proactive (programmed inspection and sampling) and reactive (complaint investigation and hazard warnings) work for the coming year and allocate appropriate resources to be able to adequately respond.

2.2 Within the context of The Leicester Community Plan 2001/2003 and its statutory obligations, Leicester City Council's regulatory services work to achieve the following objectives in food enforcement:

- To prevent ill-health and death arising out of food poisoning from the consumption of food which has been contaminated by microbacteria and toxins in the process of manufacture, distribution, preparation and sale;
- To ensure that consumers can enjoy good quality food in Leicester and from Leicester producers;
- To prevent economic loss arising out of adulteration and fraud in the production and sale of food;
- To ensure that consumers are able to make informed choices about the food they buy.

- 2.3** 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.
- 2.4** 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.
- 2.5** There are some 2500 food related businesses and premises operating in Leicester which fall within the remit of Leicester City Council's regulatory obligations.
- 2.6** 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.
- 2.7** 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.
- 2.8** 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.
- 2.9** 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.
- 2.10** The Service Plan for Food Enforcement will be made available to businesses and consumers in Leicester.
- 2.11** The Service Plan will be 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 2002/2003 be approved by Cabinet and go to Council Wednesday 11 July 2002 for endorsement.

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. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting Information
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	Yes	3.1
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	
Young Persons	No	

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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