



Leicester  
City Council

## MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 2006 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Mrs. Maw – Chair  
Councillor Henry – Focus Team Spokesperson  
Councillor Garrity – Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Hall                      Councillor Dempster (for Cllr Shelton)  
Councillor Kitterick (for Cllr Connelly)

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### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were requested to declare any interests they had in the business to be discussed and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No declarations were made.

### 9. SERVICE PLAN - FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT 2006/07

The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report which gave details of the proposed Service Plan for Food Law enforcement for 2006/07 which was required through the Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement.

It was proposed that as part of the Service Plan, the service took part in the Food Standards Agency's 'Scores on the Doors' pilot initiative. Under this scheme it was anticipated that inspections would be undertaken in discrete categories of food businesses with a summary of the inspection findings published on the Council's web site and a 'score' given. Operators would then be asked to prominently display the information on their premises. Work would be undertaken with the local media to publicise the scheme and allow good practice to be highlighted. It would also help encourage high standards of food hygiene and enable the public to make informed decisions over their choice of food establishments.

It was stated that food premise inspections, including those of mobile food

vans, were undertaken as part of a planned programme based on risk. After an inspection the food business was risk rated to determine the next inspection date. The inspection frequency ranged from between six to eighteen months for high-risk food premises and two to three years for low risk food businesses. Inspections were also carried out following complaints, which resulted in a number of premises that were in lower risk categories being inspected. 93% of premises in the highest risk category were inspected in 2005/06 together with 13% of those in the lower risk categories.

Concern was expressed that concentration on the 'Scores on the Doors' initiative would give increased workloads without an increase in resources and could mean that the targets for assessing high and low risk premises were not met. Concern was also expressed that the requirements under new food legislation would lead to inspections taking longer and would put further pressure on the team. In response it was stated that many of the premises inspected under the 'Scores on the Doors' initiative would have been inspected anyway and that whilst the number of inspections programmed for this year had been adjusted to reflect the extra work necessary it was expected that a similar number of inspections as last year would be carried out this year.

It was also reported that the bid for pump priming funding from the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership had been successful and would be used in offering food and health and safety training aimed primarily at food businesses.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.