



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All Wards

## **FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**Cabinet  
Council**

**30 November 2009  
28 January 2009**

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### **Service Plan For Food Law Enforcement 2009/2010**

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#### **Report of the Director of Environmental Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report and the Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2009/2010 (appendix) have been produced to meet the requirements of the Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement and Service Planning Guidance. This guidance recommends that service plans should be approved by the relevant member forum to ensure local transparency and accountability.

#### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2009/2010 outlines how the City Council intends to fulfill its statutory duties and other obligations and, how these link to the Council's priorities. The planned activities are set out below:
- Inspections of food businesses and food products
  - Investigation of complaints
  - Sampling and analysis of food for hygiene, composition and accurate description
  - Training of food handlers
  - Provision of advice and support to businesses.
- 2.2 **SmileSafe:** The service intends to maintain and expand of this successful scheme, which informs consumers about hygiene standards found upon inspection. This provides beneficial information to the public and the public display of "scores on the doors" acts as an incentive for businesses to raise or maintain standards.
- 2.3 **Takeaway meals:** As part of the Government's drive towards healthier diets, we will take part in a regionally-coordinated project to assess the levels of salt, saturated fats and total calories in takeaway meals, with the view of developing a "social marketing" campaign that will advise local businesses how to formulate healthier recipes.
- 2.4 **Allergens in food:** Although pre-packed foods have to include allergens warnings in their labeling, there are no such statutory requirements for caterers. Following a pilot

project in 2008/9, which was well-received by traders, an education and advice programme will be extended to takeaways and restaurants to improve point-of-sale information and reduce cross-contamination in kitchens.

- 2.5 **Basmati Rice:** Intelligence reports indicate that some imports contain a mixture of cheaper varieties and/or are contaminated with mycotoxins (due to storage in damp conditions). With rice forming a staple part of the diet of many communities in the City, the sampling of rice will be undertaken to assess whether this premium price variety has been adulterated with cheaper varieties or contains unsafe levels of toxins.
- 2.6 **Alcoholic spirits:** Experience in 2008/9 has shown that some licensed premises have substituted branded spirits, mainly vodka, by refilling bottles with cheaper makes and counterfeit or bootleg product, so making an unfair profit. A spirit sampling programme will be undertaken with a view to the prosecution of offenders and possible reviews of premises licenses.
- 2.7 **The “Pennington Report”:** Our response to the findings of this public enquiry into an outbreak of *E coli* O157 in South Wales, butchers’ shops in Leicester with raw meat and ready to eat foods will be inspected and samples taken for microbiological examination. We shall carry out related surveys on cleaning cloths, pre-cooked rice, pre-packed sandwiches, and kebab meat.
- 2.8 **Raising industry standards:** Over 1,000 food handlers will be trained in food hygiene and many of these courses will be held in languages other than English, including Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Chinese and Turkish.

### 3. **RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)**

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:  
Note the Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2009/2010 and refer this to Council for approval.
- 3.2 Council is asked to:  
Approve the Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2009/2010.

### 4. **REPORT**

- 4.1 Please see Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2009/2010 (appended).

### 5. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. **Financial Implications**  
There are no direct financial implications. The Service Plan has been written to make best use of the existing budget.

*Martin Judson, Ex 7390*

**5.2 Legal Implications**

The Service Plan accords with the Council's statutory responsibilities. Legal Service support includes assessing files passed for prosecution in accordance with the Council's prosecution policy and where files are taken forward for prosecution undertaking the necessary work to enable cases to be brought before the Courts as speedily as possible. In accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution, approval of the plan is a matter reserved to full Council as a matter of local choice.

*Anthony Cross, Head of Environment & Advocacy Law, Ex 6362*

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph references within the report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None

**8. CONSULTATIONS**

None

**9. REPORT AUTHORS**

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<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)