

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Cllr John Smith

REPORT NO: ENV436

DATE: 29 April 2009

TITLE:	Food Law Enforcement Plan 2009/10	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Forward plan item	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Cllr John Smith Healthy Environment	
CONTACT OFFICER:	D F Price Healthy Communities Manager	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below: Full assessment done 12 May 2009	Full impact assessment Required: No
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the Food Law Enforcement Plan document for 2009/10 be approved and adopted by the Cabinet on behalf of the Council.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

The report summaries the requirement for an annual Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and includes key features of the plan, detailing how the council will discharge its statutory duty as a food authority. The Food Law Enforcement service plan is a statement of commitment by the council to carry out its statutory food safety duties, and as such requires approval by the Cabinet. The plan will contribute to the council's priorities of Quality Living and Good for Business

3. DETAILS OF REPORT (SUMMARY – USE APPENDICES FOR DETAILED INFORMATION)

- (1) The Food Standards Agency (FSA) oversees local authority food safety enforcement activity. The Agency requires each local authority to produce, approve and implement a service plan for food safety activities.
- (2) The plan has been produced in the format recommended by the FSA, which facilitates comparison and future audit by the FSA. The format provides information on a full range of activities, forming a comprehensive food safety service, which does not concentrate solely on programmed inspections.
- (3) Section 1 of the plan sets out the council's vision, values, aims and objectives linking the plan to these and the healthy environment business plan.
- (4) Section 2 details background information including the profile of the area, organisational structure, functions covered, scope of the service, demands, enforcement policy and performance measures.
- (5) Section 3 contains information on the risk profile of food businesses, the hazard assessed inspection/intervention programme for 2009/10, as well as other inspections anticipated. The main change from previous years is the introduction of "interventions" rather than the term "inspection". Projected activity in other areas such as complaints, advice to businesses, imported foods, food poisoning and infectious diseases, food safety incidents, liaison and promotional work is also set out. The resources available to fulfil these commitments are also detailed.
- (6) Section 4 outlines the financial resources allocated to the service as well as historical staffing resources and details of current and future staffing development.
- (7) Section 5 sets out the measures taken to ensure that quality and consistency are maintained at a high level through documented procedures, review, monitoring, comparison and liaison.
- (8) Section 6 details the process of review, also identifying priority areas of activity in the event of unforeseen circumstances impacting on the service. The FSA require improvements to feature in plans, therefore areas for development are specified.
- (9) The main highlights for 2008/09 were:-
 - 97% of inspections due by hazard were carried out
 - a total of 579 food premises inspections were carried out
 - All except 3 required revisits were carried out and a total of 463 non inspection visits were carried out
 - The sampling programme was maintained and over 350 food and water samples were taken
 - 2 food newsletters were sent to food businesses
 - 11,815 "hits" were made on the food hygiene star awards web site
 - The introduction of the Star Awards Scheme has resulted in an

improvement in standards of food safety at food businesses. 1,049 are rated and 951 (91%) are rated at 3 star or above

(10) The key improvements specified for 2009/10 are:-

- Further developing links and communication with partners, stakeholders and customers to achieve our corporate values and priorities.
- Integrating the existing healthy communities web site into the proposed new council website due to be available in July 2009
- The review of internal policy and procedural documents relating to infectious diseases and sampling to be completed.
- Food businesses not currently achieving “broadly compliant” status will receive the benefit of targeted interventions aimed at helping them to improve standards.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The council has a legal duty to approve a food law enforcement plan

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The resources necessary to implement the plan are set out in the document

6. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

Failure to approve and carry out a food law enforcement plan could expose the council to action by the Food Standards Agency

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No adverse impact identified

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

9. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

The 2008/09 service plan process will have identified the resourcing requirements to enable the delivery of the food law enforcement plan. Therefore there will not be any requirement for any additional resourcing.

10. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The plan is a legal requirement and is updated annually. The report outlines the outcome of the 08/09 plan and requests comment and amendment for approval by Cabinet of the updated plan. It is essential that the updates to the plan are made clear

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

None

12. APPENDICES:

Food Safety Enforcement Service Plan Year 2009-2010