

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Portfolio Holder- Environmental Services

October 2014

LEAD OFFICER: Head of Service Environmental Health & Licensing

FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2014/15

Purpose

1. To seek Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's approval of the Environmental Health & Licensing Service Food Safety Plan for 2014/15.
2. This is not a key decision

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that That the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder approve the Environmental Health & Licensing Service Food Safety Plan 2014/15, attached to this report

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The national Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities requires that a Food Safety Plan to be produced each year by South Cambridgeshire District Council as the local "Food Authority". The Framework Agreement recommends that the Food Plan is approved at the relevant level within the Council, hence the recommendation to the Portfolio Holder endorses the Plan on behalf of the Council.
5. This Food Plan demonstrates the continued commitment of SCDC Environmental Health & Licensing to supporting local food businesses to maintain high levels of food safety and so deliver high consumer confidence and success for their businesses

Background

6. The national Framework Agreement Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities sets out what the Foods Standards Agency (FSA) expects from Local Authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law. It requires that a Food Safety Plan to be produced each year by South Cambridgeshire District Council as the local "Food Authority". The attached food plan complies with the requirements of this Framework Agreement.
7. The FSA are very aware of the financial pressures within local government and their Food Law Code of Practice (England) allows the Service to replace some inspections with simpler less resource intensive interventions. Therefore where appropriate the service carries out business compliance assessments, partial inspections, interventions etc rather than full inspections. This allows highly qualified Environmental Health Officers who specialise in Food Hygiene to focus their energies on the premises posing the greatest risk to public health

8. The Plan demonstrates that with over 90% of local food businesses “broadly compliant” with food standards, no major non-compliance identified or outstanding, local consumers can have high confidence in the work of both the Environmental Health & Licensing Service and local businesses. The move from a slavish adherence to inspection programmes to an intelligence-led, risk-based approach to activities to ensure scarce resources are targeted in the right place, combined with training to double the number of food-competent Environmental Health Officers, will only add to this confidence.
9. A number of outstanding inspections have been identified from the previous management regime that will be addressed in this years service period.

Options

10. The Portfolio Holder can accept, reject or amend the proposed plan. However, failure to adopt the plan would leave the Council open to criticism by the Food Standards Agency if they choose to conduct an audit.

Financial

11. Food Safety work identified within this plan will be delivered within existing resources. Additional funding has been made available by the Food Standards Agency to support South Cambridgeshire’s transition to the national Food Hygiene Rating System.

Staffing

12. At this time it is expected that existing Environmental Health & Licensing staff will deliver the activities identified.

Risk Management

13. Failure to adhere to the Food service Plan could result in adverse media comment. In extreme circumstances the FSA may take over SCDC’s food law enforcement duties and charge the Local Authority for the work.

Equality and Diversity

14. None specific

Climate Change

15. None specific

Effect on Strategic Aims

The Service’s intelligence-led, risk-based approach to food safety activities will contribute to delivering the SCDC Corporate Plan commitment to ensuring an effective approach to enforcement to target residents’ problems whilst effectively supporting local business success.

Background Papers

Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement
Food Standards Agency (FSA) Food Law Code of Practice and Practice
(England) and Practice Guidance
Food Standards Agency (FSA) Strategy for 2010–2015
FSA Food Bourne Disease Strategy 2010-2015
BRDO Compliance code

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