

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Leader and Cabinet 9 June 2005  
**AUTHOR:** Housing and Environmental Services Director

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### FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON LOCAL AUTHORITY FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN

#### Purpose

1. To seek the Cabinet's approval and recommendation to Council of a Food Service Plan for 2005/06.

#### Effect on Corporate Objectives

This report is being presented by virtue of it being a requirement of the Food Standard Agency which will consider the Food Service Plan as part of its audit of the service.

2. Quality, Accessible Services	The plan refers to many ways in which the food service works towards this objective ie. Access to services through the Contact Centre and quality benchmarking.
Village Life	The plan supports the development and maintenance of small business through appropriate measured enforcement, advice and education.
Sustainability	The service has at its heart the protection of public health.
Partnership	The service involves liaison and partnership working with a variety of food businesses, organisations and agencies.

#### Background

3. Food aspects of the Department's work have been included within the 2005/06 Service Plan however, the Food Standards Agency in their Framework Agreement require the production of a specific Food Service Plan to a common format. The Food Service Plan attached as an **Appendix** to this report meets this requirement. Appendices to the Food Service Plan are available in the Chief Environmental Health Officer's office.

#### Considerations

4. The Food Standards Agency has stated the following in their framework documentation:  
.. "Service Plans are an expression of Local Authority's own commitment to the development of food service. However, it is also important to consider the use made of the plans by the Food Standards Agency which will need information about Local Authority food law enforcement activities in a *common format* to enable it to assess Local Authorities' delivery of the service."

Guidelines were then given as to the details and expected content of the Food Service Plan. The Service Plan simply documents in one single plan the work and structure of the Department relating to food safety.

This plan is included within the Policy Framework of the Council and as such the responsibility for agreeing the Food Service Plan lies with the Council.

### **Options**

5. The production of a service plan for this area of work is a requirement of The Food Standards Agency (FSA).

### **Financial Implications**

6. Referred to in the body of the report.

### **Legal Implications**

7. None.

### **Staffing Implications**

8. At this time it is anticipated that staff will meet the field work targets set for the Department in the food safety area.

### **Risk Management Implications**

9. Failure to carry out the work identified would result in adverse media comment and publicity. The FSA could name and shame the local authority nationally. In extreme circumstances if we fail to carry out this work the FSA may take over our inspection and enforcement duties and charge the local authority for the work.

### **Consultations**

10. None.

### **Conclusions/Summary**

11. This service plan meets the FSA requirement under the Framework Agreement and is an update on previous agreed plans.

### **Recommendations**

12. That Cabinet recommends Council to approve the Food Service Plan 2005/06, which is attached to this report.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement and other appendices are available from the Chief Environmental Health Officer

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