



Report To: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder
Lead Officer: Mike Hill

29 September 2016

Food Safety Service Plan 2016/17

Purpose

1. To seek Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's approval of the Environmental Health & Licensing Service Food Safety Plan for 2016/17.
2. This is not key decision

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder approve the Environmental Health & Licensing Service Food Safety Plan 2016/17, 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. The Food Safety Service 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 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. 95% of inspections planned were carried out and of these 93% of premises were judged to be broadly compliant with food safety legislation. Where contraventions were found officers worked with the business to achieve compliance and only in a few premises needed to resort to enforcement action.

Options

9. 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 any future audit.

Implications

10. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

There are no significant implications

Financial

11. The service will continue to operate within the existing budget and will seek to develop Primary Authority Partners to recover costs.

Staffing

12. The service can be delivered with current staffing levels.

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.

Effect on Strategic Aims

Aim 1 – Living Well

14. The service plan supports business to deliver safe food by an intelligence led, risk based approach to regulation.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

National Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities
Food Safety Service Plan 2016/17

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