

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION & SAFETY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

FOR PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY AT THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 29 June 2016

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2016-2017

Contact Officer: Paul Lehane, Head of Food Safety, Occupational Safety and Licensing
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

To update Members on the performance of the Food Safety Team for the year 2015-2016 and to seek approval of the service plan for 2016-2017.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members are asked to

2.1 Note the performance of the food team for the year 2015-2016

2.2 Note the resourcing of the team for the year 2016-2017

Portfolio Holder is asked to

2.3 Approve the service plan for 2016-2017

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: An annual service plan is prepared for the Food Standards Agency setting out how the Councils to fund resource and discharge its responsibilities for food safety. The plan attached at Appendix 1 sets out the plan for 2016-2017 and reviews performance for the previous year 2015-2016.
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Safer Bromley Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £270k
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio budget
 4. Total current budget for this head: £270k
 5. Source of funding: Existing Revenue Budget 2016/17
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 5.39ftes
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All 2,500 food businesses in the Borough, all residents and visitors who buy or eat food produced or sold in the Borough
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Members received a report (ES 16008) on the food safety service at the meeting held on 20 January 2016 highlighting the impact of staff reductions on the ability of the team to meet the inspection targets set by the FSA.
- 3.2 The FSA requires an annual service plan to be prepared for the food team setting out how the council funds, resources and plans to undertake its food safety duties. The plan also reviews the previous year's performance. A copy of the service plan for the year 2016-2017 and reviewing 205-2016 is attached as Appendix 1.

Staffing

- 3.3 Since the January 2016 report some short term additional resources have been made available to the team. The temporary part time officer was increased to full time and this will run until the end of June 2016. In addition we secured the services of a food safety officer for 6 months through Adecco. This officer is working up to 25 hours a week evenings and weekend.
- 3.4 The Head of Service has reviewed the resourcing of the food safety team and has decided to move 1 fte Environmental health officer from the health and safety enforcement team to the food safety team. This post is vacant and recruitment is underway. This will be reflected in the service plan in September 2016 when it is revised.
- 3.5 In addition cover is also been sought for the maternity leave of one of the current food safety officers from August.

Performance 2015 - 2016

- 3.6 A detailed performance report can found in Appendix 1 at page 15 of 19 'Review of Performance 2015-2016'. The key points being
- a. 568 food hygiene inspections were undertaken. 75% of the target 757.
 - b. 250 food standards inspections were undertaken. 83 % of the 300 planned
 - c. Overall the 74% of food businesses were found to be broadly compliant at the time of inspection was maintained above the 70% target.
 - d. All 8 businesses with a food hygiene rating score (FHRS) of Zero were improved
 - e. 148 revisits were undertaken
 - f. 256 complaints were investigated
 - g. 31 food samples were taken for analysis and followed up where necessary
 - h. 495 cases of suspected or confirmed food poisoning were reported and investigated

Work Targets for 2016 – 2017

- 3.7 As highlighted in report No ES 16008 20 January 2016, the number of outstanding inspections from previous years continues to be an issue for the team to address. Details of what we should do this year are set out in para 3.1 page 5 in the Service Plan in Appendix 1.
- 3.8 The total number of inspections due this year including the backlog is 1410. Members will be aware that we don't have the resources to achieve that and we will, as in previous years, target our responses based on risk.

3.9 The total number of inspections and interventions that we plan to undertake this year is 747. This is made up of

- 326 overdue B & C food hygiene inspections,
- 5 overdue food standards inspection,
- 115 due A & B food hygiene inspections
- 36 1 rated hygiene inspection not due an inspection in 2016/17 (Local Priority and part of the agreed Portfolio plan)
- 5, overdue A food standard inspection
- 40 unrated premises which are not low risk; and
- 180 projected new high-risk premises registering with the service.
- 40 FHRS rescore requests

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The FSA require each Council to produce an annual service plan setting out how they will fund resource and implement their responsibilities under the Framework agreement on Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council had a dedicated budget of £270k to run the food safety service.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The FSA monitors the performance of Councils enforcement functions through the LAEMS returns. Where there are concerns the FSA may set standards, report to the authority on their performance and ultimately can direct the Council as to steps to be taken.

Non-Applicable Sections:	6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	