



Executive
13th September 2006

**Report from the Director of
Environment and Culture**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Service Plan for Food Safety Enforcement 2006/7

Forward Plan Ref: E&C-06/07-009

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Food Standards Agency require that each local authority publish annually, a service delivery plan specifying the arrangements that they have put in place for the enforcement of food safety, food standards and feeding stuffs standards for approval by members.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members approve the annexed Service Plan as the Authority's plan for the enforcement of food safety, food standards and feeding stuffs legislation during the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In 2000, the Food Standards Agency published the *framework Agreement on Local Authority Law Enforcement* specifying the arrangements that each food authority needs to put in place for the enforcement of food safety, food standards and feeding stuffs legislation.

- 3.2 The *Framework Agreement* requires each food authority to publish an annual service plan for food safety enforcement, to be provided in a prescribed format and to provide the following information:

- The services provided by the food authority
- The means by which they will provide those services
- The means by which they will meet performance targets and standards
- A review of the authority's past performance

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no additional financial implications above the budget allocation previously approved and currently being implemented. The issues in the service plan concern how current resources will be utilised this year.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council has a duty to enforce food safety legislation. The Food Standards Act 1999 gave the Food Standards Agency powers to monitor and audit local authority enforcement performance and where performance is unsatisfactory, to take that function away from the failing authority.

5.2 The Council has a duty to enforce occupational health and safety legislation. Section 18 Guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Commission to ensure compliance with the Local Authorities duty to provide an effective enforcement service with respect to occupational health and safety. The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 requires Local Authorities to make adequate arrangements for the enforcement of health and safety and where this is not found to be adequate the HSE has the power under Regulation 5(2) of the Health and Safety (Enforcement Authority) Regulations 1998 to take that responsibility away.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 There are no additional staffing implications suggested by this report

Background Papers

The Food Standards Agency *Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement* can be accessed on the Agency's website at www.foodstandards.gov.uk

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Elizabeth Georgeou, Environmental Health, Brent House, 349-357 High Road Wembley, Middx HA9 6BZ. 020 8937 5252

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