



Meeting **COUNTY COUNCIL**

Date **19 JULY 2007**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS

TRADING STANDARDS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PLAN 2007 - 2008

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the Trading Standards Food and Agriculture Plan for 2007/08.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The Food Standards Act 1999 established the Food Standards Agency giving it the powers necessary to enable it to act in the consumer's interest at any stage in the food production and supply chain. It gave the Agency powers to monitor and audit local authority enforcement activities in relation to food and animal feeding stuffs to ensure that these activities are being effectively and consistently undertaken.
3. Service delivery plans are seen as an important means to ensure that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.
4. The Trading Standards Service has a statutory duty to enforce Food Standards and Animal Feeding Stuff legislation within the County.

The Service Plan

5. This document (attached as Appendix1) sets out in broad terms the way food standards and animal feeding stuffs enforcement is to be enforced within the County in 2007/2008. It refers to a number of policy and procedure documents. Objectives and targets for the year are detailed in the Food and Agriculture Team Business Plan, contained in the Service's 2007/2008 Business Plan.

Personnel

6. Details of the resources to be allocated to the function are contained in the Food and Agriculture Team Business Plan. Officers carrying out food standards inspections are required to hold a statutory qualification and to undertake ongoing training to maintain professional competence.

Risk Assessment

7. Situations which could lead to the work set out in the Food and Agriculture Plan not being achieved have been considered in the light of business continuity.
8. Should there not be a full complement of officers within the team for any length of time suitably qualified officers from other teams within the Service will be called upon for assistance.
9. If access to the Food and Agriculture Team's base and its associated equipment is lost then the team would transfer to another Trading Standards office within the county where computer records access is available and specialist equipment would be supplied by other Authorities within the East Midlands.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities personnel, Crime and Disorder, and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

Recommendations

11. That the Trading Standards Food and Agriculture Plan for 2007/08 be approved.

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Partnerships

Legal Services Comments [HD 10.7.07]

The decision falls to Council as part of the delegation framework.

Financial Comments of the Strategic Director (Resources) (RWK 20.6.07)

None.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None.

Electoral Divisions Affected

All.