

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 24 OCTOBER 2007

FOOD SERVICE PLAN

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of amendments to the Food Service Plan to reflect new Departmental structures together with legislative arrangements and to request that Cabinet formally approves the Plan which reflects the Food Law and Enforcement policies and procedures as recommended by the Food Standards Agency.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The White Paper “The Food Standards Agency – A Force for Change” identified the Food Standards Agency as having a key role overseeing local authority enforcement activities relative to Food Safety.
- 2.2 The provision of a Food Service Plan is seen as an important part of the process to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.
- 2.3 This is an updated version of the Food Service Plan which was approved by Community Services Committee on 29th March 2006 and will be audited by the Food Standards Agency as part of the auditing of food law enforcement by local authorities. A core audit of food law enforcement in East Ayrshire will be carried out by the Food Standards Agency during December 2007.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 In addition to ensuring that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered by local authorities, the Food Service Plan will also:
- (i) Highlight key service delivery issues;
 - (ii) Set future objectives; and
 - (iii) Provide a means of managing the performance of the local authority.
- 3.2 The Food Service Plan provides information about the service and how the service will be provided and reviewed.
- 3.3 The Food Service Plan will demonstrate that the Council is providing a balanced service in respect of Food Safety Enforcement.
- 3.4 The Food Service Plan provides an expression of the Council’s commitment to the development of Food Safety policies and procedures.

3.5 The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement recommends that Food Service Plans are submitted for Council approval and reviewed on an annual basis. Copies of the Food Service Plan are available on the Members information portal and in the Members' Information Point.

3.6 The amended plan reflects changes following the Council restructure as of April 2007 together with legislative requirements and performance information.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Food Service Plan will form part of the Food Law and Enforcement Policy which will be audited by the Food Standards Agency.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Food Service Plan is commensurate with the Community Plan theme of Improving Health and the general principle: "To Help People of All Ages Make Healthy Lifestyle Choices".

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The adoption of the amended Food Service Plan is in accordance with the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement and will form part of the audit by the Food Standards Agency of local authority food law enforcement which will take place in December 2007.

7.2 The amended Food Service Plan provides a detailed breakdown of the Food Service provided, how the Council will maintain the service and how this will be reviewed and reflects amendments following restructuring of Council Departments in April 2007.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet is invited to:-

- (i) Consider the approval of the amended Food Service Plan; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

EM/PLT/LB

17 October 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. East Ayrshire Council: Food Service Plan

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should contact David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services on 01563 576161 or by E-mail to David.Mitchell@EastAyrshire.gov.uk.