

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005

#### LICENSING OF BUTCHERS SHOPS

##### Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Community Services Committee on the legislative proposals concerning the licensing of butchers shops and the requirement to cease licensing requirements as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Butcher shop licensing was introduced in Scotland in May 2000 following a recommendation of the Pennington Group, which examined the fatal outbreak of *E.coli* 0157 food poisoning in Central Scotland in 1996. The Pennington Group recommended licensing of butcher shops as a temporary measure, pending the introduction of a hazard analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) requirement for all food businesses through EU legislation.

#### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 New EU hygiene regulations taking effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 introduce requirements, substantially equivalent to the current butchers licensing requirements, including a HACCP procedures requirement for all food businesses. The Food Standard Agency Board decided at its open meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 that national butchers' licensing legislation should not be re-made when the new EU hygiene rules take effect. In consequence, the national butchers' licensing legislation is being withdrawn from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

- 3.2 Current butchers' licensing requirements specify that a licence lasts for 12 months and that the issuing authority must impose a fee of £100.00. The vast majority of the licensed butchers in Scotland fall to be licensed on or around October each year and so unless the licensing system was amended, most licensed butchers would be required to obtain new licences, at a cost of £100.00 to cover the October/December 2005 period.

The Food Standards Agency considers that this would constitute an unjustifiable burden on businesses and Local Authorities, bearing in mind butchers licensing is being withdrawn at the end of 2005.

- 3.3 It is proposed therefore to amend the existing legislation by extending the duration of existing licences to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 and so there

would be no need for currently licensed businesses to submit applications or pay a fee.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are approximately 24 premises which fall into this category and so the Council would not collect £2,400 in licence fees which would have it otherwise expected to receive. This shortfall in income will be met from existing resources.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Draft Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Licensing requirements relating to butchers shops are to cease as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006.
- 7.2 Arrangements are proposed to extend existing licenses to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The committee is invited to:-
- (i) remit to the Executive Director to make appropriate arrangements to ensure compliance with the legislation; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

18<sup>th</sup> August 2005

WS/PLT/RRS

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

**Implementation Officer – [john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)**