

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6TH FEBRUARY 2002

**FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY SCOTLAND: AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S
FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE**

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of a recent audit of the Council's Food Law Enforcement Services undertaken by the Food Standards Agency.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As part of the Food Standard Agency's arrangement to improve consumer protection and confidence in relation to food, audits of Local Authorities Food Law Enforcement Services are being carried out. The Council's Food Law Enforcement Services are delivered by the Environmental Health Service and the Trading Standards Service covering food safety, hygiene, composition, labelling, imported food and feeding stuffs.

The full audit includes arrangements in place for inspections of food businesses and foodstuffs, sampling and analysis, internal management, food safety promotion and education activities. The audit assesses the Council's performance with its own standard for the purpose of maintaining and improving consumer protection in confidence. Audits also give the Food Standards Agency the opportunity to identify and disseminate good practice.

- 2.2 The on-site element of the audit took place on 20th and 21st November 2001 when a comprehensive round of inspections and interviews was carried out.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Executive Summary (attached as an Appendix to this report) confirms that overall, the Council is providing a good level of Food Law Enforcement.
- 3.2 The report indicates some key areas for improvement which can be dealt with relatively quickly and easily.
- 3.3 The document reflects the commitment and support of Community Services Committee in resourcing the Environmental Health Service in recent years following introduction of new Legislation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Section 12 of the Food Standards Act 1999 empowers the Food Standards Agency Scotland to monitor the performance of enforcement of authorities in Scotland.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Environmental and Trading Standards Services have been the subject of a statutory audit carried out by the Food Standards Agency Scotland.

7.2 Overall the Audit indicates that the Council is providing a good level of Food Law Enforcement. A number of areas of improvement are in the process of being addressed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to note the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

15th January 2002

WS/JFC/RRS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Food Standards Agency Draft Report: East Ayrshire Council Audit 20 and 21 November 2001.

AGENDA