

**Meeting of the Cabinet – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Food Service Plan 2009/2010**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 To advise Cabinet of the contents of the Directorate of the Urban Environment Food Service Plan 2009/2010.

**Background**

2. Local authorities are required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to produce and implement an annual Food Service Plan that sets out how the authority will deliver food law enforcement functions to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.
- 3 The food service is located within the Planning and Environmental Health Division of the Directorate of the Urban Environment and provided by officers within the Food and Occupational Safety (FOS) and Trading Standards sections.
- 4 The service consists of inspections of food businesses to ensure compliance with food safety and food standards legislation, investigation of complaints relating to food and premises, sampling of foods for microbiological and compositional requirements, the investigation of food borne disease as well as educational and promotional activities.
- 5 Delivery of the service contributes to the Council Plan themes of Safety, Environment, Caring and Quality Service Matters. The Sustainable Community Strategy themes of creating a prosperous borough, promoting well-being and good health and safeguarding the environment are contributed to by ensuring the safety of food produced and consumed within the borough and encouraging healthy eating and reducing health inequalities.
- 6 Service plans developed under the framework agreement produced by the Food Standards Agency provide the basis on which local authorities are monitored and audited by the Agency. It is a requirement that food service plans are submitted to Members for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.

- 7 A summary of this year's service plan is appended to this report (Appendix 1). A full copy of the Food Service Plan is located in the Members' Room.
- 8 Regarding performance in 2008/2009 items to note are:
- High levels of programmed inspections of food premises have been maintained.
  - The Scores on the Doors scheme publishing the results of food hygiene inspections on the Council's website was launched in April 2008. The scheme has been extremely popular with members of the public with up to 2,000 users per month. In the first 12 months of the scheme, the proportion of the borough's food premises which are broadly compliant with food hygiene legislation has risen from 75% to 81%.
  - Food sampling targets have been exceeded for both microbiological and compositional sampling.
  - 71 Dudley Food for Health Awards were issued during the year, exceeding the Local Area Agreement target. The awards are now published on the Council's website, in conjunction with the Scores on the Doors scheme. The Award, delivered jointly with Dudley PCT, recognises food businesses with good standards of food hygiene which also provide a range of nutritionally healthy options and contribute towards environmentally sustainable practices. This work also contributes to the delivery of the Health Inequalities Strategy and the Obesity Strategy.
  - Food labelling lessons were delivered in both secondary and primary schools in the borough and have been recognised as best practice by the Food Standards Agency and included in the national Food Vision website.
  - An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out for the food safety and communicable disease services and an action plan prepared.
- 9 The Food Service Plan was presented to the Select Committee on the Environment on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009. It was resolved that the information be noted and that members of the Committee be circulated with the geographical location details of the businesses applying for registration of food premises in 2008-09. This action was carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

## **Finance**

- 10 Financial implications from implementing the Food Service Plan are met from within existing budgets

## **Law**

- 11 The Council's duties with respect to protecting consumer interests in relation to food safety and standards are set out under the Food Safety Act 1990.
- 12 Powers to enable the Agency to monitor and audit local authorities are contained in the Food Standards Act 1999.

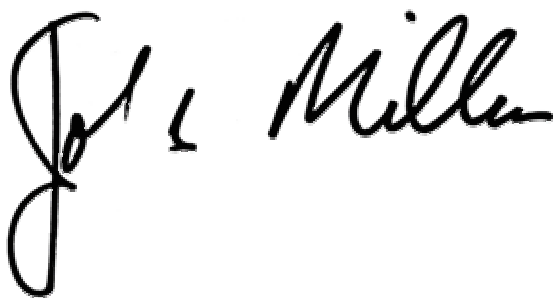
- 13 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

### **Equality Impact**

- 14 This report does not conflict with the Council's policy on equality and diversity.
- 15 The Food Service Plan contributes towards reducing health inequalities for all residents in the borough by promoting healthy eating. In particular healthy eating is encouraged for children and young persons and also elderly people through the Dudley Food for Health Award. The vast majority of premises achieving the award are schools, nurseries and residential homes.

### **Recommendation**

- 16 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the contents of the Food Service Plan of the Directorate of the Urban Environment 2009/2010 and recommend referral to full Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. B. Millar'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

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### **Background Papers**

Food Service Plan 2009-10