

WARDS: ALL

AGENDA ITEM NO 10

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT– 27TH JULY 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

FOOD SERVICE PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the Directorate of the Urban Environment Food Service Plan 2004/2005.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Food Standards Agency was created on the 1st April 2000 and is charged with protecting consumers' interests in relation to food standards and safety.

The Agency's functions are to:

- Provide advice and information to the public and to the Government on food safety from farm to fork, nutrition and diet.
 - Protect consumers through effective enforcement and monitoring
 - Support consumer choice through promoting accurate and meaningful labelling
- 2.2 As part of its duty in protecting consumers through effective enforcement and monitoring, the Agency has a key role overseeing local authority food law enforcement activities.
- 2.3 A framework agreement was produced by the Agency in September 2000, which included service planning guidance setting out the framework for a Food Service Plan that each authority should adopt.
- 2.4 The Agency is proactive in setting and monitoring standards and auditing local authorities' enforcement activities in order to ensure this activity is effective and undertaken on a consistent basis.

2.5 Service plans are seen to be an important part of the process to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.

Service Plans also:

- Focus debate on key delivery issues
- Provide an essential link with financial planning
- Set objectives for the future, and identify major issues that cross service boundaries; and
- Provide a means of managing performance and making performance comparisons.

2.6 Service plans developed under these arrangements provide the basis on which local authorities will be monitored and audited by the Foods Standards Agency.

2.7 The Agency has also stated "Food Service Plans should be submitted to the relevant member forum for approval to ensure local transparency and accountability".

2.8 The Food Standards Agency audit of May 2001 required an action plan to be formulated and appended to the audit report. The action plan was an on-going feature of each year's service plan in order to facilitate continuous service improvement. All of the actions in the plan were completed during 2003-04 and the Food Standards Agency has confirmed that the plan has been fully implemented. 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' Library.

3.0 PROPOSAL

3.1 That Committee notes the contents of the Food Service Plan 2004/2005 of the Directorate of the Urban Environment and recommend referral to the Executive.

4.0 FINANCE

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

5.0 LAW

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 Powers to enable the Agency to monitor and audit local authorities are contained in the Food Standards Act 1999.
- 5.3 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1872 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.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 This report does not conflict with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the proposals set in paragraph 3.1 of this report be approved.

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Director of the Urban Environment - John B. Millar

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Background Papers:-

- 1. Food Service Plan 2004-2005