

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

20 June 2017

Report of the Director of Planning Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 FOOD AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2017-2020

Summary

The Council is required to produce a Food & Safety Service Plan by the Food Standards Agency. The revised draft of the Plan is reported for the Board's consideration and comment.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Framework Agreement requires local authorities to produce a Service Plan. It is against this Plan that local authorities are monitored and audited by the FSA. In addition, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 section 18 guidance to local authorities is implicit in its requirement that a Plan is produced indicating how this function is organised, resourced and delivered.
- 1.1.2 This Plan covers what is required by the Council's Constitution and replaces what was formerly called the Food Law Enforcement Plan.
- 1.1.3 This Plan has been produced for a three year period, which reflects the timetable for the introduction of a new approach to food safety enforcement outlined in the Food Standards Agency's 'Regulating Our Future' Strategy. In the meantime our Plan will be reviewed annually.
- 1.1.4 The Plan reflects national priorities and standards and considers:
- service aims and objectives;
 - information on service delivery and work programmes;
 - quality assurance;
 - resource allocation; and
 - performance management information.

1.1.5 A full copy of the Plan has been included at **Annex 1**.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The FSA requires the Council to produce a Food Safety Service Plan.

1.2.2 Under Part Four of the Council's Constitution, for this Plan to be adopted the Executive needs to refer the proposals to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will then, having considered any representations from local stakeholders, refer it back to Cabinet with any appropriate amendments. From Cabinet, the Plan will go to Council for adoption.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 The resources to implement the Plan are covered within existing budgets.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Failure to produce a Service Plan could result in criticism from the FSA and the HSE and would feature in future audit reports on the Council's performance.

1.4.2 The Plan provides key evidence that there is proper governance, resourcing and organisation of the Council's Health and Safety function.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- 1) **NOTE** the revised Food and Safety Service Plan (2017 – 20); and
- 2) Seek the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules set out in Part Four of the Council's Constitution.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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