

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Port Health & Environmental Services Committee	12 November 2013
Subject: Approval of the 2013-2014 Food Safety Enforcement Plan for the London Port Health Authority	Public
Report of: Director of Markets & Consumer Protection	For Decision
<u>Summary</u>	
<p>This report seeks your Committee's approval for the Food Service Enforcement Plan for the London Port Health Authority. Members will recall approving the City of London Plan at an earlier meeting; however, there was a delay in the production of the Port Health Plan due to sickness absence at a senior level. The plan has now been finalised and is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is the central competent authority for the administration of Regulation EC 882/2004 on official food and feed control in the UK and they have powers in the Food Standards Act 1999 to set standards of performance and audit and monitor local authorities. The FSA has a Framework Agreement with Local Port Health Authorities in England which we are obliged to follow when developing our food and feed services and planning our enforcement activity.</p> <p>Under this agreement, the FSA also requires each local food authority to publish an annual Food Service Enforcement Plan for their food safety work and as the City Corporation in its role as London Port Health Authority, we are required to produce a plan for this service.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>I recommend that your Committee approves:</p> <p>a) the London Port Health Authority Food Service Enforcement Plan 2013-2014 (see Appendix 1)</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. EC Regulation 882/2004 sets out the approach that competent authorities of Member States must adopt for official feed and food controls with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) acting as the central UK food authority and they in turn have devised a Framework Agreement that sets out what they expect from Local Authorities (LAs) and Port Health Authorities (PHAs) acting as “food authorities” who are charged with the delivery of official controls on feed and food legislation.
2. Each such ‘food authority’ must produce an annual Food Service Enforcement Plan that describes the activities, techniques and approaches that will ensure they deliver on their obligations and it is a requirement that these plans are approved by elected members.
3. The Framework Agreement also contains ‘the Standard’ which LAs/PHAs are obliged to follow on service delivery as well as a template to develop the service plan itself which our plans follow.

Current Position

4. The City Corporation must ensure that the services we provide to support and achieve business compliance with food safety law address the whole package set out in ‘the Standard’, and that we deliver this in line with the Government’s better regulation agenda.
5. We must also however, continue to meet the local needs of City businesses, residents, workers and visitors as set out in the Vision, Strategic Aims and Key Policy Priorities of the City of London Corporate Plan 2013-2016; this is achieved through our departmental Business Plan and individual service plans which detail the work that will be done and which is judged by our key performance indicators.
6. The City Corporation publishes its Food Service Enforcement Plans as the FSA expects this as an expression of its commitment to the development of food safety in the Port and City of London. It is my intention to continue to make these plans available to our stakeholders, including publishing them on the City Corporation website.

7. The Food Service Enforcement Plans set out the direction of future enforcement work and we aim to:-
 - a) target poor performing food businesses appropriately to secure improvements;
and
 - b) work with better performing businesses to ensure they maintain full compliance.
8. However there are continuing challenges which we face and these are set out below:-

The national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

9. Last year the City Corporation successfully migrated from the London **Scores on the Doors** scheme to the FSA's national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS). This year, in partnership with all other local authorities across the country, we have been asked to continue to promote the scheme and its [website](#) as widely as possible to the public so they can make informed choices on where to eat or purchase food, and overall standards will be improved.
10. The Welsh Assembly recently passed legislation which will make the display of a business' FHRS score sticker compulsory in Wales so that the public are fully aware of hygiene standards in premises, and this may be adopted UK wide in the next few years.

Increased Food Standards work

11. In the wake of the recent horse meat crisis, the Port Health Service increased the compositional sampling work in partnership with the other Port Health Authorities and local authorities to ensure all food products are as described and are from traceable and reputable sources.

Review of Official Control of Food and Feedstuffs

12. The FSA cancelled its review of the delivery of official controls of food and feed by LAs/PHAs, but it is possible that some issues were already identified, and therefore some changes to current delivery

models may be forthcoming, although there is a review at European level underway.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

13. The Enforcement Plan reflects the detailed operational work undertaken by the Port Health Service carrying out regulatory enforcement in support of the strategic aims of the City and through:-
 - a) ensuring by advice and enforcement that the business community within the Port are legally compliant and that they continue to produce food hygienically which is safe to eat; and
 - b) ensuring that food stuffs entering the country through our ports meet the food safety requirements of the whole of the UK.
14. The plan is linked to our Departmental and Service Business Plans through setting out detailed activities which support our Key Performance Indicators.
15. Approval of the Plan will ensure that the City Corporation as both a Food and a Port Health authority meets its fundamental obligations under the requirements of the FSA's Framework Agreement.
16. As previously stated, it is my intention to make the plan available to all stakeholder businesses which will include publication on the City Corporation's website. In accordance with the stated intentions of the FSA, this will make the Port Health plan transparent and accountable to all relevant parties, and also enables any comments received on the documents to be taken into account at the next revision for 2013-2014.

Other Implications

17. There are no other implications that would result from approval of this report.

Conclusion

18. The attached service plan follows the existing format within the Official Controls Framework Agreement.

19. The service plan will be updated annually, subject to your approval and they will form part of the Business Plan 2013-16 for the Port Health and Public Protection Service.

Appendices

Appendix 1 London Port Health Authority Food Service
 Enforcement Plan 2013-2014

It will be made available in the Members' Reading Room and on the City Corporation's intranet.

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