

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 14th June

CONTACT OFFICER: Ginny de Haan, Head of Food, Safety and Business Support
Keith Eaglestone, Trading Standards Manager
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875225

WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing - Councillor Small
Community & Leisure - Councillor S Chaudhry

PART I **NON-KEY DECISION**

STATUTORY SERVICE DELIVERY PLANS

1 Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet endorsement for Statutory Service Plans in relation to:

- Food Safety Service
- Health and Safety Service
- Trading Standards Service

in accordance with the requirements laid down by external agencies.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council that the Statutory Service Plans in relation to the Food Safety, Health & Safety and Trading Standards work undertaken by the Council be endorsed.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

The plans are based around ensuring that the Council is able to fulfil its statutory obligations under the relevant Regulatory Services legislation. However, the focus of projects within all the Services is geared towards Sloughs specific community and business needs, based on local intelligence and our work with partners. Examples of where the plans contribute are given below;

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
 - Supporting and encouraging all the cuisines in Slough to provide healthy eating (Catering for Health) choices, safe food businesses including importation of ethnic foods.
 - Safeguarding migrant and other vulnerable workers
- **Adding years to Life and Life to years**
 - Reducing risks in the work place with specific projects such as Estates Excellence, Management of Asbestos; increasing awareness of food labelling and healthy eating, contributing to reducing obesity and CHD rates in Slough;
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**

- Underage sales education and enforcement; projects to reduce the incidence of violence in retail and licensed premises e.g. Work Safe Slough; Loan Shark project;
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- Advice for Slough businesses on waste and pest control; animal by-products waste disposal. Advice on Public Safety issues at outdoor events.
- **Prosperity for All**
- Supporting local businesses in meeting their legal requirements' through seminars and fully funded consultancy; 'Buy with Confidence' and Food Hygiene courses; in other languages and with signers for hard of hearing. Recognises good standards with the Safe Food award

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action. It is anticipated that the plans can be implemented within existing resources. The situation will be closely monitored, however, and any future resourcing implications reported to Members for consideration.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Approval of the plans	Limited risk to delivery from serious incidents such as Work Related Death Investigations, Animal Health Disease; food poisoning outbreak or unplanned staff absences	Contingency plans in place supported by re-assessment of priorities.
Failure to approve	Serious risk to delivery of statutory obligations, failure to delivery on projects that impact positively on health & well being issues in Slough	Re- assessment of resources and priorities

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There is a legal obligation for the Council to establish and approve statutory Service Plans for food, health & safety and trading standards. There are no Human Rights Act implications in this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality Impact assessments have already been completed for the core policy areas of the Services

5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The Food Standards Agency, the Health and Safety Commission and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have a key role to play in overseeing local authority enforcement activities. Each has issued guidance

setting out standards for service provision and introducing monitoring and auditing arrangements, in order to ensure that local enforcement activities are undertaken in a fair and consistent manner.

- 5.2. Service Plans are an important part of the process to ensure national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered to meet local needs effectively. These Service Plans, which are required to be reviewed and updated annually, will
- focus on key local 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
- 5.3. Local authorities are required to include in their Service Plans:
- information about the services they provide
 - the means by which they will provide those services
 - the means by which they will set/monitor performance targets and standards
 - a review of performance against proposed targets
- 5.4. The way that we carry out our enforcement and advisory activities has change significantly to keep pace with the national regulatory landscape. The continuing shift in emphasis by the Food Standards Agency, the Health & Safety Executive and the Department for Business Enterprise and Reform will result in the further focus of our resources on high risk activities whist aiming to reduce the regulatory burden on compliant business: making the best use of the resources we have available and ensuring value for money.
- 5.5. We will seek to strengthen existing partnerships and develop others to ensure effective delivery across service areas; using an evidenced based approach to help meet the specific needs of Slough as identified in the Slough Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

6 Comments of Other Committees

If approved by Cabinet the plans will go to Full Council meeting on 27th July, 2010.

7 Conclusion

The proposed Service Plans illustrate our commitment to continuous improvement and accountability. They also show how the local authority has adopted a balance of techniques and approaches to support local businesses, drive up compliance, enhance consumer protection and promote safety and wellbeing in the workplace and our community

8 Viewing of plans

The 3 individual Statutory Service Delivery Plans are available for viewing in the Members' Room

9 **Background Papers**

- '1' Food Standards Agency Framework Document
- '2' Health and Safety Commission Section 18 Standard
- '3' The Health & Safety of Great Britain\ Be part of the Solution: HSE
- '4' National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships.