

West Wiltshire District Council

Meeting of Council

29 July 2004

Food Safety Service Plan 2004/05

1 Purpose

The Council is required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to formally approve a Food Safety Plan. The content and style is specified and the process open to Audit. This report complies with that requirement, having been to Cabinet and recommended to Council for approval.

2 Background

This is the third of these reports and differs little from previous reports. This report defines how the Food Safety Service is managed and includes number of premises, complaints and special activities. It also reports performance and achievements for the previous year. Some new issues are brought before cabinet with this report. The complete text is attached as an appendix and available on the website.

2003/04 was a notable year for the Food Safety Service as we dealt with a number of major incidents beyond the routine inspection programme that attracted local and national interest. Examples of these are:-

- Antibiotic contaminations of imported seafood products.
- E.coli infections outbreak at a local nursery.
- Hoax contamination of milk at Westbury Dairies.
- Gastro-enteritis outbreak at Center Parcs.

3 Key Issues

Performance

The key indicator for the service (set by the FSA) is to achieve 100% of required inspections. Last year we managed 92% (the West Wilts Service Plan target was 85%). The writer regards this as a sound achievement considering the several weeks of time lost dealing with the above mentioned incidents. This year we are targeting 100% as an Environmental Health departmental priority and would hope to be able to manage time and capacity to reach this target.

Future Demands

This year the FSA will be requiring additional (as yet unspecified) targets in the following areas:-

- Control of imported foods. The impact of this area of work cannot be easily predicted before the guidance has been issued, which will probably be this year..
- Enhanced sampling and analyses of foods. We will be able to comply with this work

- Increased education of business and the public on food safety matters. We will utilise technology and West Wilts Matters to assist.

We will deal with all of these subjects but the effect on the quality and quantity of other work cannot be easily predicted. Once the FSA targets are available we will review both the Food Safety Plan and service plan targets.

Financial Implications

These have no direct financial implications to this report.

Legal Issues

The only legal issue to this report is the overriding requirement of the Council to comply with FSA requirements and so to approve this report.

Human Rights

There are no human rights implications to this report.

6 Options

There is only a single option for the whole report and this is whether to approve. In approving the report members will need to consider that the affect of new demands from FSA cannot be fully predicted. We will manage this changing situation when these are clear and if appropriate we will report back to cabinet at that time.

7 Background Papers

No background papers. The full Food Safety Service Plan is published on the West Wiltshire website.

8 Recommendations

The Food Safety Service Plan 2004/05 be approved.

Plain English guidance given 

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