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## **Licensing and Protection Panel**

### **Report of the meeting held on 18th June 2008**

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#### **Matter for Decision**

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#### **1. SERVICE PLAN FOR FOOD SAFETY 2008/09**

The Panel has considered an executive summary of the proposed Service Plan for Food Safety 2008/09. The Plan has been developed to comply with the requirements of the Food Standards Agency and incorporates the aims and objectives of the service, the resources available and a review of work undertaken during the previous year.

The Council has already approved a recommendation that the Service Plan be adopted at its meeting held on 25th June 2008.

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#### **Matters for Information**

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#### **2. SERVICE PLAN FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT**

The Panel has endorsed the content of the service plan for Health and Safety Enforcement for 2008/09. The plan has been developed in accordance with guidance issued by the Health & Safety Commission and contains sections on the aims and objectives of the service, the resources available and a review of the work undertaken in the previous year.

Members have been informed that a full programme of premises inspections was carried out in 2007/08 and a high customer satisfaction rating achieved in this period. In accordance with Health & Safety Commission's strategic direction, the service delivery element gives priority to focused initiatives, which accords with the Council's existing targeted approach to health and safety enforcement.

### **3. SCORES ON THE DOORS**

The Panel has approved the content of a food hygiene rating scheme for food businesses which aims to improve food standards across the District. Under the scheme, all caterers and take-away businesses within the District will be awarded up to five stars for food hygiene and safety, cleaning and confidence in management. Premises will be assessed during their scheduled food hygiene inspections and a certificate and window sticker showing the appropriate stars will be awarded for display at the premises. Should a premise receive one or zero stars then a certificate will not be issued.

In considering the content of the scheme, the Panel's attention has been drawn to proposals by the Food Standards Agency to establish a nationwide "Scores on the Doors" scheme on which the agency are currently consulting. Despite the existence of a large number of five star pilot schemes, the Agency has decided to only consult on a three star plus/fail (four-tier) scheme and a pass/improvement required (two-tier) scheme. Members were advised that in Cambridgeshire, four councils currently operate a five star scoring system and they have indicated that they will not be willing to change to an alternative scheme, their reason being a five star system allows for better differentiation between businesses and provides a better incentive for improvement.

The Panel have therefore agreed to proceed with the scheme on a five star basis.

### **4. REPRESENTATION ON ORGANISATIONS**

The Panel has appointed a number of representatives to outside organisations for the ensuing Municipal Year.

J M Sadler  
Chairman