



To: Executive Councillor for Environment, Waste and Public Health: Councillor Peter Roberts
Report by: Frank Harrison Team Manager (Commercial)
Relevant scrutiny Environment 15/3/2016
committee: Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected: All

BUSINESS REGULATION PLAN 2016-17

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

Cambridge City Council is responsible for enforcing food hygiene and health and safety enforcement in its area, and is required to produce an annual plan clarifying how this will be achieved. The Business Regulation Plan needs to clearly define the objectives permitting the Council to fulfil its responsibilities for the year, and confirm that it has committed sufficient resources to facilitate this work. The plan needs to be submitted to the Council for their consideration prior to its formal approval. The Plan is a large document and therefore this year an Executive Summary has been produced as Appendix A which identifies all of the key aspects of the full report, which is available to view in full, and if approved by committee will imply approval of the full Plan.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

To approve the Business Regulation Plan for 2016-17

3. Background

Cambridge City Council is the enforcement authority for food safety and health and safety within the City. As such, the authority is required to ensure that it provides adequate resources and commitment to fulfilling these responsibilities, and to show how this will be achieved in the Business Regulation Plan for 2016-17.

The plan identifies the work required of the Commercial Team proposes to do, the demands imposed upon the service that will impact on its ability satisfy the plan and the resources available to it to achieve this obligation.

Our obligations as the food authority is imposed on Cambridge City Council by Regulation EC No. 178/2002, which establishes the duty of a food authorities, and the Food Safety Act, 1990, which clarifies the capacity and role of authorised enforcement officers within each food authority.

Our obligation under the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974, imposes the responsibility for the enforcement of the Act on to authorised local authority officers, but requires of the local authority to provide sufficient resources to fulfil this duty.

Through these statutes, Cambridge City Council is directly required to appoint sufficient suitably qualified officers to undertake these duties and to provide them the resources to achieve this work. Furthermore, the Business Regulation Plan 2016-17 outlining these obligations must receive the consent of the Council, thereby ensuring that the authority has understood and agreed to its obligations, and has permitted sufficient resources to achieve the objectives.

The Commercial Team is responsible for enforcing health and safety in approximately 2,000 businesses and food safety in approximately 1,300 businesses in the city.

The nature of the work proposed to be undertaken during 2016-17 is specified in the submitted plan but summarised in the abbreviated Executive Summary as Appendix A

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The exact financial allocations required to fully fund this service have not as yet been determined for 2016-17, but will be in line with the amounts allocated for the previous years for this service; these have been set out in the plan for consideration.

(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)

The staffing implications for the service are expected to be reduced compared to 2015-16 by 0.6 FTE, as set out in the plan.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as the service is not changing any practices from that which it has delivered for many years. The work of the Commercial Team seeks to allow the Council to fulfil its legal obligations, with no bias, discrimination or any other consideration other than the requirements of the laws enforced by the service.

(d) Environmental Implications

It is not expected that the proposals contained in the Business Regulation Plan 2016-17 will have any environmental implications for the Council or for the businesses in the City who are affected by the plan.

As part of this section, assign a climate change rating to your recommendation(s) or proposals. You should rate the impact as either:

- Nil: to indicate that the proposal has no climate change impact.

(e) Procurement

There are no foreseeable procurement implications associated to the adoption of the Business Regulation Plan 20-1716.

(f) Consultation and communication

The Business Regulation Plan 2016-17 is produced to set out how the Council will meet its obligations to enforce food safety and health and safety in the City. The plan needs to be formally adopted by the Council, and be available to the Food Standards Agency or the Health and Safety Executive should they require access to it or during any audit of the work of the Commercial Team to assess how the Council meets this legal obligation. The plan needs to state only how the Council will meet its obligations, and does not need to go through a consultation process with service users.

Once approved, the Business Regulation Plan 2016-17 will be made available via the Council's Webpages.

(g) Community Safety

The role of the Commercial Team is to enhance safety in the City; the Business Regulation Plan 2016-17 defines how this will be achieved during the year.

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

The Business Regulation Plan 2016-17 – Full Copy Appendix

6. Appendices

Appendix A

Executive Summary of The Business Regulation Plan

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name:	Frank Harrison
Author's Phone Number:	01223 - 457902
Author's Email:	frank.harrison@cambridge.gov.uk