

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND WASTE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 27TH JULY, 2016

Present – Councillors Irving (Chairman), Chadwick, Haslam, Peel, Richardson, Sherrington, Whitehead and P. Wild

Officers

Ms. S. Schofield	Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Ms. J. Hall	Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Jones.

Councillor Irving in the Chair

3. COUNCILLOR ROSA KAY

The Chairman referred to the recent sad death of Councillor Rosa Kay.

Members stood in silent tribute to her memory.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 28th June, 2016 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

5. FOOD SERVICE PLAN

The Director of Place submitted a report which put forward the 2016/17 Bolton Food Service Plan for the consideration and comment of members.

The report advised that the Food Service Plan had been prepared in accordance with the Food Standards Agency's Food Law Code of Practice (England) and set out how Bolton's official food and feed controls would be provided in 2016/17.

The report reminded members that the Council had a vital role in ensuring that standards of food safety within the Borough were maintained and improved and that officers in the Food and Health and Safety Team provided the link between

national policies, the food industry and the people of Bolton in ensuring the provision of a safe and wholesome food supply.

In planning and delivering the food and feed law enforcement service, Bolton had taken account of the Governments better regulation agenda and the key five principles of good regulation, as follows:

- Targeting – taking a risk based approach;
- Proportionality – intervening only when necessary;
- Accountability – being able to explain and justify service levels and decisions;
- Consistency – applying regulations consistently to all parties; and
- Transparency – being open and user friendly

The report went on to provide further details in relation to the following:

- Service aims and objectives;
- Links to corporate objectives and plans;
- The organisational structure of the Food and Health and Safety Team in Regulatory Services, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- Scope of the Food and Feed Services;
- Demands on the Service;
- Enforcement Policy;
- Service Delivery and interventions at Food and Feeding stuffs establishments;
- Food standards;
- Service requests and food complaints;
- Advice to businesses;
- Sampling;
- Control and investigation of outbreaks and food related infectious diseases;
- Food safety incidents;
- Resources; and
- Staff development.

Following consideration of the report, members made the following comments/observations:

- Issues in relation to food allergies and the possibility of tests being undertaken to detect such things as nuts in food;
- The work around the Bolton/Wigan Partnership;
- The importance of businesses being aware of food management systems as detailed in the Safer, Food, Better Businesses guidance;
- The reasons why more than one person undertakes food inspections;
- The outcome of the appeals; and
- The perceived lack of consistency when undertaking inspections.

It was agreed that the Executive Member for Environmental Services be recommended to endorse the Food Safety Delivery Programme and that the Council be recommended to approve the 2016/17 Food Service Plan as now submitted.

(The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 6.15pm)