



## Official Food Standards and Feed Controls Service Plan

16 July 2015

Report from Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health

### Purpose of this Report

The Official Food Standards and Feed Controls Service Plan (known as the 'FSA Plan') is a statutory plan required to be produced annually by the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

### Background

The Plan is different this year in that it reflects the fact that Surrey and Buckinghamshire County Councils have decided to build on the success of their Trading Standards teams by creating a new joint Trading Standards Service.

The overall structure follows guidance from the FSA and includes the necessary facts and statistics to ensure the document is valid as a statutory plan. The statistical and financial content is different to last year as it relates to the new joint service.

The Plan continues to reflect the change in emphasis by the FSA and the move away from a primarily inspection based regime in favour of a more varied suite of 'interventions' e.g. education, surveillance and monitoring, to increase business compliance whilst reducing the burden on compliant businesses.

### The Plan

The focus of the Plan continues to be on those food issues that most impact on the health, nutrition and economic welfare of Buckinghamshire and Surrey's consumers, particularly the vulnerable. With County Councils having the role as the lead for Public Health, we are liaising with the Directors of Public Health to ensure that interventions we carry out in this

area are supporting this work appropriately. Where we provide consumer / business education and information, this is tied in to the Public Health work being led by the County Councils to ensure a coherent message. We will continue to inspect all of our high risk premises to ensure that controls on the composition and labelling of food are complied with. (N.b. Food hygiene is dealt with by the District Environmental Health Officers.)

The delivery of the Plan by the joint service is from existing resources and represents the work of 7.38 full time equivalent officers and a total spend of £403,587. For Buckinghamshire this represents similar resources being dedicated to this work as in the previous year.

This 'statutory' Plan is required to be submitted to the 'relevant Member Forum for approval'. In approving this Plan, Full Council will be establishing a framework that will meet the expectations of the Food Standards Agency. The FSA Plan is a public document and will be made available via the website and in printed version to anyone on request.

### **Recommendation**

**Council is asked to approve the 2015/16 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan (the FSA Plan).**

Appendix 1 – The Official Food Standards and Feed Controls Service Plan 2015-16

**MARTIN PHILLIPS**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

