



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Tuesday 10th February 2015

PRESENT MEMBERS

Councillor Carmichael in the Chair.

Councillors Barker, Briggs, Cunningham, Ellis, Heginbotham, Johnstone, Kelly, Reynolds, Stringer and Sumner

OFFICERS

Mick Cartledge - Acting Chief Executive
Jayne Enright - Principal Environmental Health Officer – Food Safety
Elaine Newsome - Democracy Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Harbour

62. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham and Lishman.

63. Minutes

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th January 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

64. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

The Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings for the period February to May 2015 was noted.

65. Food Intervention Programme and Statutory Targets

Following a request at the last meeting, the Committee received, for information a report on the management of the Council's food intervention programme. In considering the report, Members raised the following:

- Allergen notices: The Committee were advised that the Foods Standards Agency had introduced new requirements for the display of notices advertising the potential for allergen content in foods. Jayne Enright advised that the Agency had allowed a transitional period of 18 months during which time the Council would work with the local food industry to develop their understanding of the requirements. She reported that officers were working to co-ordinate a standardised approach across Lancashire
- Food Safety Interventions: In response to a question on the range of activities to support food safety, the Committee were advised that the Council had a series of initiatives ranging from sample testing, inspections and education programmes. Whilst Officers were required to undertake unannounced inspections, in compliance with Food Standards Agency requirements, they viewed early intervention as a priority, providing guidance and support to companies in the food trade. It was noted that an on-going programme which aimed to educate and embed best practice and high standards in new food related businesses proved have positive outcomes
- Closure of non-compliant businesses: It was highlighted that the Council had to be able to satisfy a set criteria including a demonstration that there was imminent risk to the public in order to close a business.
- Food Safety Categories: It was noted that 97% of all food sector businesses within the Borough now had a category 3 rating or above and as such were compliant with the law. Officers continued to support those businesses with category 1 and 2 ratings with a view to improving their standards to a satisfactory rating. Members suggested that additional public guidance that explained the differences between category standards would be beneficial to Councillors and members of the public. Officers undertook to explore this further.
- Food waste disposal: Members noted that a recent report by United Utilities had highlighted that Burnley experienced significant issues with the disposal of waste and fat in its drainage systems. Officers, following receipt of the report were now looking to build this issue into the Councils intervention programme.

66. Work Programme

The Chair advised Members that she had been working to evaluate the revised Scrutiny Committee structure, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness during future Municipal Years.

She had agreed with officers that a Scrutiny Workshop would be included as a priority in the Member Development Programme for 2015/16 and requested that the Committee consider the introduction of form that aimed to assist in the development of the Committee's work programme. She highlighted that rather than verbalise ideas at each meeting, the form aimed to afford Councillors the opportunity to put their ideas in writing which would then be circulated to all members of the Committee with agenda packs. It was hoped that this would stimulate discussion and generate buy-in on proposed work programme topics and assist in faster progression of review activities. Members were provided with assurances that this would not impact on how reviews were conducted which would continue to be flexible, in line with the needs of each individual review.

The work programme for the remainder of the 2014/15 Municipal Year was agreed as submitted.