

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: PROTECTIVE SERVICES OPERATIONAL/SERVICE PLANS 2007/08
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 31 January 2007	Ref: GC/1	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval for the Protective Services Operational / Service Plans for the period 2007/08.

2. Background

- 2.1 Protective Services currently comprises of three principal functions, Food Safety, Environmental Health and Trading Standards. Each has an important role in their specific field for protecting the public and providing relevant advice and guidance to the private sector and others.
- 2.2 Each individual service has a duty to prepare a service/operational plan on an annual basis which clearly sets out their specific aims and objectives for the forthcoming period. It is also normally a requirement that committee approval is obtained for these plans.
- 2.3 As part of an ongoing drive to promote good practice this report relates to all of the Protective Services Operational/Service Plans rather than submitting separate reports as had been the case in previous years.
- 2.4 Copies of all of the Operational/Service Plans have been placed in the Members library.

3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1 The Food Standards Agency place considerable importance on the need for all Local Authorities to produce and work to a Food Safety Service Plan which meets the criteria which they have set for this purpose. This is reflected in the expectation by the Agency that all Local Authorities should seek Committee approval of their Food Safety Service Plan.
- 3.2 The Food Safety Service Plan includes details of the projected resources and targets proposed for period 2007/08. The Plan includes details of a Performance Plan which includes the following initiatives :-
 - Achievement of Chartermark status for the Food Safety Service
 - Significant improvements to the web site
 - Review and seek to improve customer consultation and service level provision
 - Review and seek to improve analytical service provision

- Implementation of new arrangements for reporting statistical data to the Agency and adopting new “intervention” proposals
- 3.3 The Trading Standards Service Plan has been drawn up in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Department of Trade & Industry National Performance Framework. The plan highlights how the work of the Trading Standards Service contributes to and is developed from the priorities contained in the Council’s Corporate plan and the Community Plan. Specific initiatives for 2007/08 include:
- “Its Your Call” – Information and resource pack for retailers to prevent sales of under age products
 - “Its Your Call Too” – education pack for schools on under age sales of tobacco, alcohol, knives etc.
 - Licensed Trade training pack – joint initiative with South Lanarkshire Council and SLTA
 - Bogus Callers – establishment of No Cold Calling Zones
 - Young Consumer of the Year and Consumer Challenge – competitions for schools
 - Home Safety – electric blanket testing
- 3.4 The Environmental Health Service operational plan reflects the current priorities for the service and addresses the new requirements being placed on the service in relation to health and safety enforcement, changes to housing regulation requirements and environmental protection issues. In addition, the plan includes specific actions to integrate environmental and health and safety management standards into the existing quality management system.
- 3.5 For the first time the Pollution Control Team are included in the Environmental Health Operational Plan and the opportunity has been taken to include specific service improvement initiatives which will ensure that the service provided by this team is reviewed and re-engineered throughout 2007/08.

4. Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 There are no issues relevant to this report which have any sustainability implications.

5. Corporate Considerations

- 5.1 The recommendations are consistent with policy and there are no personnel, financial, legal or property implications in the report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Members approve the Protective Services Operational/Service Plans for the period 2007/08.

C. Morgan

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For further information please contact Gordon Cunningham on 01236 616511