

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTIVE SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: EAT SAFE AWARD SCHEME INITIATIVE
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 9 August 2005.	Ref: GC/1	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To advise Members of progress regarding the Eat Safe Award Scheme Initiative.

2. Background

2.1 A report was previously submitted to the Planning and Environment (Protective Services) Sub-Committee in February 2005 advising Members of the launch by the Food Standards Agency of their Eat Safe Award Scheme Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to help raise food safety standards, improve public confidence and provide more information to assist consumer choice in catering establishments throughout Scotland.

2.2 The award scheme has been launched on a pilot basis with the intention that it would eventually become a national initiative, if successful. The scheme is currently limited to catering premises to which the public normally have access and therefore, at the moment, doesn't include many Council owned properties such as schools and nursing/residential homes.

3. Report

3.1 The scheme is based on an assessment by an Environmental Health Officer during a routine inspection of the premises as to whether food safety standards within the premises meets those set for the award scheme. The standards to be applied are in excess of what is normally required by current food safety statutory requirements and therefore an Eat Safe award would only be considered if the Environmental Health Officer considers that the premises meet the higher standards.

3.2 Food premises within North Lanarkshire are all inspected as part of a comprehensive risk based inspection programme. Members are advised that the Dovecote Beefeater restaurant in Cumbernauld was inspected in May 2005 as part of this programme and was found to meet the higher food safety standards set for the Eat Safe Award. The proprietors agreed that the premises should be considered for the scheme and, following further consideration by the Council's Lead Food Officer, it was decided to make the award to these premises.

3.3 This is a significant achievement for the Whitbread Group PLC Dovecote Beefeater restaurant as it is the first premises within North Lanarkshire to gain the award. It is also worthy of note that there are only sixteen other food businesses throughout Scotland who have also gained the award, so far.

3.4 It is expected that further premises within North Lanarkshire will achieve the award in due course. It is also anticipated that public awareness of the scheme will gradually increase and this is likely to be an important factor in encouraging more food businesses to try and gain the award which will assist in an overall improvement of food safety standards within North Lanarkshire.

3.5 The Food Standards Agency are hoping for continued support for the Eat Safe Award scheme from all Scottish Local Authorities. As part of this process they have requested all Authorities to try and

arrange local publicity for any awards and it is also their expectation that details of subsequent awards would be reported to the appropriate committee. Subject to Member approval it is therefore intended to submit brief reports to the sub-committee on a periodic basis to advise Members of details of premises within North Lanarkshire who have achieved the award.

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 To note the contents of the report and agree that details of further awards are reported to the sub-committee on a periodic basis.

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For further information please contact Gordon Cunningham on 01236 616511.