

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTIVE SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: FOOD SAFETY TRAINING INITIATIVE
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 9 August 2005.	Ref: GC/1	

1. Purpose of Report/ Introduction

1.1 To seek approval to proceed with funding proposals for food hygiene training within North Lanarkshire.

2. Background

2.1 In order to assist local food businesses and help improve food safety standards the Council decided in 2001 to proceed with a food safety training initiative in partnership with the local Colleges of Further Education. The key elements of the partnership agreement were that the Colleges would provide training opportunities for elementary and intermediate level food hygiene courses. Input from the Council was through funding which allowed for a 75% training subsidy for anyone employed in a North Lanarkshire based company and 100% subsidy for others such as volunteer groups, unemployed persons and individuals wishing to start a food business within North Lanarkshire .

2.2 The training initiative was eventually extended to provide periodic funding to North Lanarkshire Volunteering Centre in order that they could specifically focus on food safety training within the volunteer sector. Funding was also set aside to provide specialised training for ethnic group food handlers.

3. Report

3.1 Since the launch of the scheme around 2500 food handlers have now received some form of food safety training. There is no doubt that the scheme has been very successful leading to a 300% increase in the number of food handlers who have been trained which in itself is considered to be a key factor in the drive to continually improve food safety standards within North Lanarkshire.

3.2 It is considered to be important to build on the success which has been achieved and it is proposed to provide further funding to the Colleges and the Volunteer Centre for food safety training purposes. It is therefore recommended that the Colleges each receive £10,000 and that the Volunteer Centre receives £5,000 on the basis that they would continue to provide training opportunities as previously outlined in this report. The Colleges and Volunteer Centre would require to administer the funding which would include the maintenance of appropriate records for audit purposes

4. **Sustainability Implications**

4.1 The recommendations are consistent with policy and there are no sustainability implications.

5. **Corporate Considerations**

5.1 The recommendations are consistent with policy and there are no personnel, legal or property implications in the report. The proposed training costs of £35,000 can be fully funded from the 2005/06 Protective Services revenue budget under the heading of Other Expenditure – Miscellaneous which is specifically for food safety purposes.

6. **Recommendations**

6.1 That Members approve the proposed food safety training initiatives.

C. Morgan

DP David M Porch
Director of Planning and Environment

For further information please contact Gordon Cunningham on 01236 616511