

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 18TH MARCH, 2002

SUBJECT: REFERENCE FROM THE REGENERATION &
CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FOOD LAW
ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY)

CONTACT OFFICER: LAURIE LYLE 547149

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	STAFFING	<input type="checkbox"/>
EQUALITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMUNITY SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR SIMMONS AND HARRIS

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Executive be requested to note the Committees concern at the delay in recruiting to a staff vacancy in the Council's Food Control Group, caused by a failure to attract applicants, and the budget challenge process, which has resulted in the Council having to engage the services of outside contractors to assist in its programmed food hygiene inspections in high risk premises.
2. That the Executive be requested to give its approval to a further recruitment exercise to fill the vacant post in the Food Control Enforcement Service, and to consider actively encouraging potential recruits from within the local community, in particular the black and ethnic minorities who remain under represented in this department, despite making up the majority of businesses in Luton currently subject to butchers licensing.

REPORT

3. At its meeting held on 6th March, 2002 the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee considered a report of the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services entitled: "Food Law Enforcement Service Plan" (Ref:6.1), attached as Appendix A, which sought the Committee's endorsement of the Council's Food Control Service Plan for 2002/03.
4. In considering the report Members expressed concern at the delay in recruiting to a staff vacancy in the Council's Food Control Group, brought about by two unsuccessful recruitment exercises (failure to attract applicants), and the post being frozen from September 2001 to March 2002 as part of the budget challenge process, which had resulted in the Council having to engage the services of outside contractors to assist in its programmed food hygiene inspections.
5. Members said that they felt that the Council should do more to recruit Environmental Health Officers, including looking at actively encouraging recruits from within the local community, in particular black and ethnic minorities which was important, when taking into account that the majority of businesses in Luton currently subject to butchers licensing are being operated by black and ethnic minorities.
6. Members said that the Council should look into developing further initiatives to actively encourage the take up of Environmental Health Officer traineeships by considering adopting measures such as; awards systems, sponsorship, and establishing partnerships with schools and colleges in the town.
7. Members agreed that the Executive be requested to note the Committee's concerns at the number of staff vacancies in the Council's Food Control Group, and that the Executive be requested to give its approval to a further recruitment exercise to fill the vacant post in the Food Control Enforcement Service, and consider actively encouraging potential recruits from within the local community, in particular the black and ethnic minorities.
8. Members were reminded that the Council's budget had recently been agreed and that if the Executive were to pursue the recommendation in relation to further recruitment, savings would have to be found elsewhere in the department's budget.

OPTIONS

9. The options are to accept, reject or modify the recommendation of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee.

APPENDIX

10. The following Appendix is attached to this report:-

Appendix A - Report of the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services: "Food Law Enforcement Service Plan" (Ref:6.1).

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

9. Report of the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services: "Food Law Enforcement Service Plan" (Ref:6.1).

