

12 July 2012	ITEM 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Application of the Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in Thurrock	
Report of: Lucy Magill – Head of Public Protection	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill – Head of Public Protection	
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson – Director of People Services	
This report is Public	
Purpose of Report: To introduce the new hygiene rating scheme in Thurrock.	

Comment [s]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [s]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the name of the Committee you are reporting to (in font 16, not capitals)

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the title of your report (in font 16 and in capitals) – a Cabinet Report should be consistent with the wording on the Forward Plan – see Guidelines 2.3

Comment [a j]: Please enter the name and job title of the person who will be presenting the report

Comment [s]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not applicable, you should enter "none".

Comment [s]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above £50,000

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [s]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision that the decision-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thurrock Council has operated a system of publishing food hygiene rating for the premises it inspects. Since 2008 these results have been published on a national "scores on the doors" website.

The majority of local authorities with food safety responsibilities, participate in one of a number of such schemes.

From 2010 the Food Standards Agency have been developing a national scheme intended to unify the various schemes in operation, thereby providing consistency for consumers.

Now is an appropriate time to consider the adoption of the national scheme for Thurrock.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 **That the committee agree to replace Thurrock's Scores on the Doors Scheme with the national Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Over the last five years Thurrock, in common with the majority of local authorities, with responsibility for food safety, has been operating a scheme of publication of hygiene scores for premises within its area. The aim of these schemes is to provide information to consumers to allow them to make informed choices regarding the source of their food. Additionally, the schemes encourage traders to improve the food hygiene standards to secure a good food hygiene score.
- 2.2 A variety of schemes have been in operation with slightly differing provisions and different branding. This weakens the impact of schemes by allowing for different interpretations in different areas, thus providing scope for confusion amongst consumers and traders alike.
- 2.3 Since 2010 the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has been developing a national scheme, known as the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The aim of this is to provide a unified system for Local Authorities. This will provide consistency for traders and improve consumer recognition due to the common branding across the UK. The documentation and door stickers include both the FSA and Thurrock logo's to provide the national recognition whilst acknowledging the role of Thurrock in food hygiene regulation.

Comment [s]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

Comment [s]: Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and **must** include:

1. a brief summary of options considered;
2. consultation outcomes
3. a risk assessment.
4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The benefit of the national scheme will increase as the number of local authorities adopting it increases. Thurrock's residents will gain most if the scheme is adopted here and by other areas where our residents may eat.
- 3.2 This scheme is voluntary and Thurrock can continue with the existing scheme if preferred.
- 3.3 The administration of the scheme is a small part of the statutory work of the food team and justified by the benefits to consumers.

Comment [j]: This should include any consultation with Ward Members and Shadow Portfolio Holders, as well as any public or statutory consultation

Comment [a]: Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 4.1 No consultation has been undertaken as this involves a minor amendment to an existing scheme.

Comment [sj]: This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 5.1 This contributes towards the council priority to provide a safe, clean and green environment.

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.2

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Financial**

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652772**
mjones@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no financial implications associated with this report

6.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652087**
dlawson@thurrock.gov.uk

Freedom of information legislation allows for the publication of the results of local authority inspections.

6.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The aim of this scheme is to improve the information available to consumers in general and improve the recognition among consumers of the scheme. This will assist the entire community

6.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

There are no other relevant implications.

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 The participation of Thurrock in a unified national scheme for hygiene rating food premises can only improve the ability of consumers to make informed choices based on objective information.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:

- FSA guidance on FHRS
- Thurrock Council Policy, scores on the doors food hygiene rating scheme.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Thurrock Council National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Policy.

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.3

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.4

Comment [sj]: This should inform the recommendations in the report

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 8. If any Papers are to be placed in the Members room that relate to this report, you should also list them here

Comment [sj]: List the Appendices referred to in the Report

- Thurrock Council Policy Scores on the Doors Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Gavin Dennett
Telephone: 01375 652349
E-mail: gdennett@thurrock.gov.uk

Comment [sj]: Insert the full contact details of the author of the report