

SERVICE PLAN 2009/10 – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

NOW ANALYSIS

THE SERVICE

Objective: To safeguard the health of all who live, work in or visit the Borough.

Staffing: 22 staff (20 FTEs) **Budget:** £990,100

The Service Teams:

The Environmental Health Service provides a range of investigatory, enforcement, licensing, regulatory and advisory services.

It is organised on the basis of functional specialisation in two teams, Commercial and Environmental Protection.

The main activities of the **Commercial Division** are:

- food safety
- health and safety at work including the investigation of reported accidents
- the control of infectious disease
- animal welfare licensing
- liquor and regulated entertainment licensing
- gambling premises licensing
- licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles
- markets and street trading licensing and registration
- enforcement of the Smokefree provisions

The Commercial Division also provides specialist corporate health and safety advice to Ashford Borough Council

The main activities of the **Environmental Protection Division** are:

- abatement of statutory nuisances
- control of air pollution
- assessment of air quality
- control of noise
- drainage investigations
- contaminated land
- environmental monitoring
- environmental assessment of planning applications

Key Partners:

Our services are provided in the main by the core EH staff. Key agencies that influence how we deliver our services are as follows:

- Food Standards Agency (FSA)
- Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Environment Agency
- Health Protection Agency

PERFORMANCE

Monitor statutory and local PIs and report as appropriate including:

- establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law (NI184)
- satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services (NI182)

Help deliver & monitor relevant LAA outcomes.

Monitor PIs as required by the FSA, HSE, DEFRA and EA and report as appropriate.

Monitor performance against annual plan.

Monitor customer feedback

WHERE ANALYSIS

GOALS

Short Term (2009/10)

- Continue to provide core EH services whilst achieving set efficiency savings. (GQS1, GQS2, GQS6)
- Complete our food safety inspection and sampling programme and continue to run the Scores on the Doors (SOTD) project (GQS1, GQS3, GQS6, CF7, P2, P6)
- Expand food safety training for businesses and help them improve their SOTD ratings. (CF7, P2, P6)
- Implement new provision on Environmental Permitting. (GQS6, P7)
- Complete Air Quality Review (GQS6, P7)
- Undertake Part II(a) contaminated land inspections; make appropriate funding applications (GQS1, GQS2, GQS6, P2, P6, P7)
- Develop and implement a healthy eating award with the Primary Care Trust (LL5)
- Complete high risk H&S Inspection programme in line with HSE priorities. Fully participate in flexible warranting scheme (GQS1, GQS2, GQS6)
- Introduce cosmetic piercing byelaws (GQS6)
- Improve EH information on the Council's web site especially for health and safety. (CF2, CF7)
- Implement new licensing provisions. (GQS6, CF5)
- Explore transfer of current Electronic Document Storage system to new 'corporate system'. (GQS1)
- Review ABC's internal H&S Policy (GQS6)
- Implement final agreed Budget Reduction Strategy, as appropriate (GQS1, GQS2, OE1, OE2)

Medium Term (2010/11)

- Continue to provide core EH services whilst achieving set efficiency savings. (GQS1, GQS2, GQS6)
- Implement any changes identified as sensible and truly cost effective in terms of partnership working. (LL3, LL5, LL6, LL7)
- Encourage expansion of the health eating award across Kent (LL3, LL5, LL6, LL7)
- Explore further joint public health projects as identified through the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Group and Kent Public Health Board (LL3, LL5, LL6, LL7)
- Undertaken any necessary policy reviews. (GQS6)

Long Term (2011/12)

- Continue to provide core EH services whilst achieving set efficiency savings (GQS1, GQS2, GQS6)
- Undertaken any necessary policy reviews. (GQS6)

IMPROVEMENT PLAN/STRATEGIES

People & Finance

- Continue to explore possibilities for joint working with other Kent Authorities. **(Partnership Working)**
- Implement talent book process and support expansion across the Council **(Quality Service and Best Value)**

Technology

- Expand on-line services with particular focus on the licensing act and gambling provisions. **(Customer / Citizen Focus)**
- Actively pursue replacement of PCs which are becoming increasingly unreliable and inefficient. **(Quality Service)**

Strategies

- Report on food safety / health and safety activity via annual report to Executive. **(Quality Service)**
- Develop street trading policy. **(Quality Service)**
- Review sex shop policy. **(Quality Service)**

