

## **REPORT OF CABINET**

**(Meeting held on 5 December 2012)**

### **1. NATIONAL FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO 42)**

The Cabinet has agreed that this Council should join the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. This scheme was established by the Food Standards Agency, which gives grant aid towards the cost of setting up the scheme locally. All food premises are subject to routine food inspections in any event, and the current system can be adjusted to reflect the criteria used under the national scheme, whereby each food supplier is awarded a score between 0 (urgent improvement needed) and 5 (very good). All scores are displayed on the Food Standards Agency's website and the proprietors are also sent a certificate and window sticker that they can display, if they so wish. As the scores will be easily available to the public, including through an app on mobile telephones, the scheme will allow customers to select food suppliers that achieve good hygiene standards and provides an incentive for all businesses to improve. All food premises in the District will be notified individually about the scheme and asked to confirm key information about their business. Once each business has been inspected under the new regime they will be awarded their score. They have the right to request reassessment to take account of improvements made following initial inspection and scoring, which has some staff resource implications compared to the current system, but it is expected that this can be contained within existing resources. The scheme will also allow those businesses that have invested in achieving high standards of hygiene to receive some recognition and to allow them to benefit through informed customer choices.

The Task and Finish Group who researched options for rating the hygiene performance of food premises, and the officers, were thanked and congratulated for their work to develop recommendations to assist the Portfolio Holder on this matter.

### **2. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO 43)**

Last year the Boundary Commission published initial proposals for the review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. This Council raised some concerns about the proposals for the New Forest East and New Forest West constituencies. Revised proposals have now been published. While one ward from Test Valley is included in the proposed New Forest East constituency (as opposed to 4 wards previously), the current proposals are cover the whole of the New Forest District, promoting its identity in terms of Parliamentary representation, and offer a much better level of electoral equality across the two constituencies. Boldre and Sway would transfer to New Forest West, while Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst South-East wards would remain in New Forest East. A summary of the proposal was set out in Appendix 2 to Report B considered by the Cabinet, with plans of the two proposed constituencies at Appendices 3 and 4.

The Cabinet has welcomed the revised boundary proposals.

**3. KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF GLASS FOR RECYCLING (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO 44)**

The Cabinet has welcomed the Council's successful bid for funding from the Government's Weekly Collections Support Scheme, that will allow the introduction of the kerbside collection of glass for recycling.

The Council has been awarded the full amount of the grant requested, which amounts to £1,880,120 over three years. This represents the initial set up costs (vehicles and containers for households to store the glass) and the running costs for the first 3 years. After that time the running costs, estimated at £250,000 per annum, will be partially off-set by additional income from recycling.

The glass recycling rounds will be rolled out in 3 main tranches, starting in the early summer 2013, with the final 5,000 hard-to-reach and multi-occupancy properties being brought into the scheme at the beginning of 2014.

The Cabinet thanked the Task and Finish Working Group who had assisted in researching the best options for a scheme that recognised the practical difficulties that were presented by such a diverse district, with both urban and extremely rural, isolated, properties to be serviced. The Officers were also thanked for their expertise in preparing the bid. This District was the only District or Borough Council in the County to be successful.

**Cllr B Rickman  
CHAIRMAN**