

## **S20. Food Law Enforcement Services Audit**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Development Services presenting the findings an audit of the Council's food law enforcement service.

An audit of the food law enforcement service had been undertaken by Food Standards Scotland (FSS) in December 2016. The audit had provided limited assurance and set out a number of recommendations. An action plan had been developed in consultation with FSS. A follow up inspection had been carried out in November 2017, during which the progress made in addressing the action plan points had been noted. A report on the follow up inspection would be submitted shortly by the FSS.

The Head of Environmental Services summarised the key findings of the audit and set out the actions taken by the Service to address the findings.

Members indicated their concern at the limited assurance provided and sought further detail on the actions required to address the key recommendations and requested detail on progress made. The Head of Environmental Services stated that, at the time of the audit, the Service had 3 key posts vacant. These had been filled (with 2 interviews taking place today). The Service had addressed the key recommendations and was confident that the remaining issues would be addressed shortly. He confirmed that in regard to staff training, all records had been updated and training provided where required.

In response to a question in regard to the Food Safety Enforcement Policy, the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that this was up to date. He also confirmed that the Food Service Plan 2016/17 had been approved and would be revised annually.

Members highlighted the particular pressures on the service to the port in Grangemouth and asked whether the staffing levels were sufficient. In response, the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that the service would be fully staffed shortly and that the staffing compliment exceeded that of comparable Local Authorities. With increased staffing levels, the service would be able to allocate sufficient time to internal monitoring activities.

The committee asked that the report on the follow up inspection is submitted for consideration when it is available.

### **Decision**

**The committee noted the report and requested a follow up report on the findings of the follow up inspection by Food Standard Scotland.**