CABINET DECISIONS ON REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC

The following report was presented to the OSC on 25 July 2018 for comment prior to determination by the Cabinet on 11 September.

The following is an extract from those Cabinet minutes.

(1)   Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan 2018/19

The report presented to Cabinet, for its consideration and endorsement, the Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan for 2018/19 (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix G, along with the report of the Communities and Place OSC).

Mr Soderquest highlighted a typo on page 14 of the report - the figure of 234 for unrated premises should read "262".

Members were pleased to note that the Authority's performance compared favourably with other authorities both in the region and nationally, with a high percentage of good quality food businesses.The "Produced in Northumberland" scheme was receiving national recognition and was highly valued by businesses. In addition, a recent Which report had reviewed all 389 local authorities in the country for food hygiene standards, and Northumberland had ranked 37th, putting it in the top 10%.

Councillor Sanderson queried what action would be taken in rechecking those premises where it was known there were issues. Mr Soderquest advised that general advice would be issued to the sector to ensure compliance. It was not practical to inspect and survey 100% of premises, even with unlimited resources, and would be extremely challenging. The issue was around allergens in food, which could be bought from any shop, and how food was packaged. It would be impossible to provide 100% assurance that all businesses were safe.

Councillor Oliver remarked on the added security which was provided by well publicised food safety cases and the heavy fines which were being imposed.

RESOLVED that:-

(a)   the Food and Feed, Safety and Standards Service Plan for 2018/19 be received and the content adopted;

(b)   the report of the Communities and Place OSC be noted.