

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services)

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee : 6 December 2006

Subject: Eat Safe Awards 2006

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of progress made in attaining Eat Safe Awards in schools during 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Eat Safe award scheme has been in operation in Northern Ireland since June 2003 and has recently been extended to Scotland. It is administered by local council Environmental Health Services (EHS) in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency in both Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- 2.2** The main aim of the scheme is to provide an incentive to caterers to strive for food hygiene and food safety standards beyond those required by law. It will also help consumers make informed choices about where they eat out by providing a recognisable 'sign' of excellence in standards in food hygiene.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Eligible establishments are assessed for the award as part of scheduled food hygiene inspections carried out by EHS and the issuing and control of the Eat Safe award certificates is handled by local authorities.
- 3.2** In Northern Ireland the award is limited to catering operations to which the public have access, including hotels, restaurants, cafes, pubs selling food, takeaways, coffee shops, in-store restaurants, most hospital canteens, some workplace restaurants (with public access) and catering college restaurants. The criteria in Scotland was changed in February 2006 to include **all** catering establishments.
- 3.3** Following changes in the scheme criteria to include schools and local authority establishments, St. Patrick's Primary school in Dumbarton has become the first school in Scotland to achieve the Eat Safe Award. This achievement was closely followed by three other W.D.C. education establishments, namely, St. Ronan's Primary, Braehead Primary and Clydebank Family Centre.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** Ongoing food safety and hygiene training undertaken by catering staff has contributed to the overall achievement in gaining the awards.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There has been no additional cost to the Council in gaining the awards.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** The achievement of this award by Council establishments evidences the commitment by staff to providing services which exceed food hygiene and food safety standards, as required by law.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** **The Committee is requested to note the achievement and contribution made to food safety and food hygiene standards by the catering staff involved in achieving Eat Safe awards.**

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(Land & Environmental Services)**

Date: 7 November 2006

Wards Affected: All

Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

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