

6 March 2017

To: Mayor Goff and Councillors
From: Jenny Livschitz, Manager Corporate Performance and Reporting
Subject: Queries from Finance and Performance committee 21 February 2017
Agenda item 12 - Auckland Council performance report

Background

The quarterly performance report presented to the committee provided a high level review of a wide range of information. The purpose of this memo is to provide responses to the queries raised by councillors at the committee meeting, where the responsible officer was not in attendance and available to respond immediately to the query.

Detailed responses to queries

1. Percentage of D/E graded food premises re-inspected within one month

Query: Provide geography of where the re-inspections are required.

Response from officers

Re-inspections required for the period of July 2016 to December 2016 are:

- Central 9
- North 9
- West 14
- South 19.

2. Percentage of registered food premises graded annually

Commentary in report: Pressures remain on the licensing area to meet the workload required under the Food Act 2016 with staff continuing to focus inspection efforts on high risk food premises. This approach is in line with the Act which provides for frequency of inspections at low risk premises to be decreased less than annually.

Query: This measure requires all food premises to be graded annually, which is in contradiction to the Food Act. How are we going to manage both sets of outcomes?

Response from officers

At the current time, all premises that Auckland Council are inspecting are still on a yearly inspection frequency. It is proposed that this measure will change for the LTP 2018-2028 to reflect the new verification frequencies from the Food Act (along the lines of all premises verified in accordance with Food Act timelines)

3. Percentage of high-risk alcohol premises inspected annually

Content in report: The quarter two report demonstrates that 86% of premises have been inspected to date but the year-end outlook of 100% inspections will be achieved by year end. The supporting commentary states that it is normal for the focus to reduce on this measure at this time of year to give priority to other tasks.

Query: Can we please provide an explanation of why staff change focus during the year?

Response from officers

Alcohol licensing inspectors spend most of their time reporting on approximately 10,000 applications received per year. Over the summer period inspectors are engaged in compliance visits to the many large events to receive special licenses. The numbers of businesses required to be inspected is low (around 650), so at times this workload is scheduled to occur in large numbers rather than targeting individual premises. The current deficit of 111 is about 5 per officer and will be inspected before the end of the financial year.

4. Professional services expenditure information

Query: Provide budget for professional services costs

Response from officers

The costs incurred for the year are \$48.6m, which includes consultancy, legal costs and audit fees as detailed in the report. The budget for the year is \$83m. It is expected the costs incurred for the year will be higher than budget mainly due to:

- *higher Unitary Plan legal fees than budgeted*
- *external specialist engaged to process higher volumes of building consents and resource consents to meet statutory timeframes and backfill vacancies (noting that costs are largely on-charged to applicants).*

If you have any further queries, please free to contact us directly.

Kind regards

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Manager Corporate Performance & Reporting

Kevin Ramsay
GM Corporate Finance & Property