

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007

Reference: ENF/W/07/062

Dear Director

### **Food Champion: Celebrating Local Authority Good Practice**

Please find below information on this award scheme. You are invited to submit an application.

Food Champion Awards: Celebrating Local Authority Good Practice will celebrate and recognise the work of local authority staff in England and Wales in delivering positive food related outcomes.

This is a joint venture involving the Food Standards Agency (FSA), Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS), Trading Standards Institute (TSI), Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). It will complement the Beacon Scheme and the FSA Shelia McKechnie Awards for community groups and is specifically for local authorities.

There are two separate themes:

- Improving Local Food Safety or Food Standards

- Improving Community Diet and Nutrition.

The first of the two separate themes covers the regulatory work of environmental health, trading standards and port health. In a complex and challenging time there is an ever increasing need to be focused, innovative and to be able to demonstrate good practice.

The second separate theme builds on the FSA's and the wider political agenda on improving community diet and nutrition. Increasingly a far higher profile is being given to the health implications of poor diets. There are clear public health linkages here with the work of environmental health and trading standards staff and also importantly with the work of many other community services. The opportunities presented are for local authority leadership and partnership at many levels.

There will be three levels of Award: Commended Awards under each theme, as well as Awards for Best in Region and overall Best in England and Wales Awards for each theme.

Being a Food Champion will be a prestigious achievement, giving authorities who have demonstrated "cutting edge" good practice an opportunity, along with the FSA, LACORS, CIEH and TSI, to inspire improvements across the sector. To enable this, FSA will assist and support local authorities for the 12 months of the Award.

Details, including how to make an application, can be found in the Food Champion Application Brochure which can be downloaded from the Food Champion Awards page: [www.food.gov.uk/foodchampion](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodchampion).

The closing date for applications for this year's award is 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007

Should you have any further queries please contact [foodchampion@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foodchampion@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Rob Wilkins