**SFELC Risk Rating Scheme Working Group**

During the consultation event hosted by FSAS on the review of the Food Law Code of Practice (Scotland) in February 2014, food authority representatives indicated that there was a need to have a fuller review of the effectiveness of the current risk rating schemes. At the event attendees suggested that work should start now on this review rather than wait for Food Standards Scotland to be established. SFELC offered to assist in this process and at the SFELC meeting in February 2014 it was agreed to establish a working group to take forward this piece of work. The working group will report to SFELC via the Resources Working Group.

Remit:

* Review the existing (post revised Code issue) risk rating scheme for food businesses and suggest improvements. This should include recognition of sustained compliance and targeting resources at non-compliant food businesses.
* Determine the most appropriate means of incorporating recognition of sustained compliance, varying compliance and prolonged non-compliance into the risk rating scheme.
* Consider if two rating schemes are required or whether a single food safety rating would be more effective.
* Consider how food standards rating can be improved, particularly to reflect the increased importance on authenticity and traceability following the horse DNA incident.
* Consider the impact on other areas of the Code and highlight any sections that would need to be amended to incorporate any proposals by the Working Group.

Membership:

The working group will be co-chaired by the Chairs of the SFELC Food Safety and Food Standards Sub-committees.

Food Standards Agency will be represented by representatives from the Enforcement Branch and FSA operations. Secretariat support will be provided by FSAS.

Each Food Liaison Group will be represented on the working group.

SFELC and/or FSA may invite people who have made significant contributions to the debate already to become additional members if appropriate.

If appropriate the Working Group can contact food industry groups or others via the main SFELC committee.

Reporting:

The Co-Chairs will report on the progress of the working group to the Resources Working Group. Members of the working group will feedback progress to their constituent organisation, to ensure effective two-way communication.

The working group should aim to provide a favoured option and amended Annex 5 by March 2015.