

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

SCORES ON THE DOORS **5 STAR FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME FOR FOOD BUSINESSES**

Environmental Health Department

We apologise that the launch of 'Scores on the Doors' was cancelled. The scheme is currently being held in abeyance until the Food Standards Agency (FSA) completes their consultation exercise. They will then deliver a report on 'Scores on the Doors' to their Board and confirm the final preferred scheme in Autumn 2008. The key advantages of a Scores on the Doors scheme are the following: -

- It provides information about the level of compliance with hygiene legislation to consumers in a way which is clear, easy to understand and readily available i.e. on the door and on a website.
- These rating schemes are not 'awards' but they drive up public health standards by encouraging businesses to comply with hygiene legislation (What food business is going to want a poor score on their door or on the Council's website?).

These schemes have a big impact on consumers, food establishments and the tourism industry. Concerns were raised at the time of our proposed launch that the chosen 5 star scheme could cause potential confusion amongst the public particularly with the Visit Wales 5 star-grading scheme. Other issues regarding details of the scheme were also raised. We do apologise that we sought to implement a scheme (London 5 star Scheme) in undue haste in July 2007. We are confident that if we had provided sufficient consultation and discussion before implementation most of the concerns could have been satisfactorily addressed. We are sorry for any uncertainty that has been caused.

Although you will notice that some food businesses in the Vale still have stickers up we have not issued any more since July 2007. Food businesses are reminded that this scheme is presently on hold.

The FSA released a report on 'Scores on the Doors Schemes' in March 08 which is available on their website www.food.gov.uk .There is now a period of consultation regarding a UK national preferred scheme. We are involved in discussions with FSA Wales and other Local Authorities throughout the Principality. Following which we hope to run a series of scores on the doors 'road shows' in the Vale to allow full debate and consideration of a likely preferred scheme for Wales. We would be most grateful for your input.

Meanwhile, please note we are still operating the successful Welsh Food Hygiene Gold; Silver and Bronze food hygiene scheme (which is an 'award' scheme only). There are however only two authorities in Wales which have a scores on doors scheme: - Wrexham and Swansea. Both are 5 star schemes although their scoring and detail differ to some extent. They are both considered to be operating successfully and they can be viewed on their respective websites www.wrexham.gov.uk and www.swansea.gov.uk.

Thank you for your patience.