

## **FOOD SAFETY SERVICE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY INTERVENTION PLANS**

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Appendix 1 – Food Service Plan Appendix 2 – External Food Service Assessment Appendix 3 – Health and Safety Intervention Plan

### **Summary**

In compliance with national monitoring arrangements, this report sets out how the Council intends to discharge its statutory responsibilities in respect of food hygiene and health and safety interventions in the year 2023-2024 and reports on activities in the previous years.

### **Recommendation (s)**

#### **The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Adopt the service plan for food safety.**
- (2) Adopt the intervention plan for health and safety.**
- (3) Agree to receive revised food and health and safety plans for the year 2024-2025 at a date in 2024.**

### **1 Reason for Recommendation**

- 1.1 To demonstrate compliance with section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities.
- 1.2 To update the committee on the priorities within the service areas and the planned use of resources.

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## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Environmental Health team based within the public protection service is deployed in many areas of public and environmental health two of which are food hygiene (inspections and interventions within food businesses), and health & safety (targeted interventions within businesses and other undertakings to support the compliance with safety obligations).
- 2.2 In each regime there are legal requirements and expectations from national authorities that they be adequately resourced and planned, with those plans being agreed by the appropriate policy making bodies within each local authority.
- 2.3 Best practice in the area of regulatory service is to establish transparent plans for the deployment of public resources and to publicise those plans.
- 2.4 Owing to the effect of Covid-19 and the implications the pandemic held for work priorities, the Council has not agreed these annual plans since 2019. Therefore the plans have been adjusted to report on the work which took place over the covid-19 pandemic period and proposes targets for the 2023-2024 financial year. It would be anticipated that equivalent plans form an annual item to committee in line with guidance.
- 2.5 During 2022 the food service area was subject to an external assessment based around the implementation of the covid-19 recovery plan. The report of this assessment is included as appendix 2 in this report.

## 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment
  - 3.1.1 None arising from this report
- 3.2 Crime & Disorder
  - 3.2.1 None arising from this report
- 3.3 Safeguarding
  - 3.3.1 None arising from this report
- 3.4 Dependencies
  - 3.4.1 The achievement of the targets are dependent on broadly the same level of resource allocation being maintained and not lost or reallocated to other service areas.
- 3.5 Other
  - 3.5.1 None

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### 4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposals are funded from within the existing budgetary allocation.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

### 5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Food Standards Agency and the Health & Safety Executive monitor the effectiveness of the Authority's action taken in these service areas. The risk of under resourcing these areas is a decrease in public protection and public health, adverse publicity arising from annual reports on local authority performance and non-fulfilment of statutory obligations.
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** none for the purposes of this report

### 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Safe and Well, Effective Council.
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** None

### 7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports:**

- 22 October 2019 Environment and Safe Communities Committee

**Other papers:**

- Food Law Code of Practice, 2021 (Food Standards Agency)  
[<https://smartercommunications.food.gov.uk/connect/UXYpkuExoT>]  
accessed 22/5/23
- Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities, 2010 (Food Standards Agency)  
[<https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/frameworkagreementno5.pdf>] accessed 22/5/23

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- National Local Authority Enforcement Code Health and Safety at Work, 2012 (Health and Safety Executive)  
[<https://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/national-la-code.pdf>] accessed 22/5/23