

FOOD SAFETY SERVICE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY INTERVENTION PLANS

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Report Author	Oliver Nelson
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Food Service Plan Appendix 2 – Health & 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 2024-2025 and reports on activities in the 2023-2024 year.

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 2025-2026 at a date in 2025.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To demonstrate compliance with section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities and the Food Law Code of Practice issued by the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 To update the committee on the priorities within the service areas and the planned use of resources.
- 1.3 Best practice in the area of regulatory service is to establish transparent plans for the deployment of public resources and to publicise those plans.

Environment Committee

15 October 2024

2 Background

- 2.1 The Environmental Health team based within the public protection service is deployed in many areas of public and environmental health including private sector housing, pollution control, public health and food hygiene and health and safety. The majority of the work undertaken is non discretionary in nature.
- 2.2 The delivery of official controls in respect of food hygiene, and the delivery of a suitable level of regulatory oversight in the health and safety service domain, are two key areas of work and require plans to be approved by the most appropriate policy making body of a Council.
- 2.3 These plans report on activity and achievements in the previous year and set out proposals for the deployment of resource for the forthcoming year.
- 2.4 In respect of the Council's obligations around the delivery of food hygiene Official Controls, it was not possible to fully meet the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice resulting in a backlog of overdue inspections and businesses who have yet to receive their first inspection.
- 2.5 The reasons for this are set out in the Food Service Plan and centre around the fact that other service areas, such as the demands in the private sector housing area, are in competition with those notionally assigned to the delivery of official food controls. The plan reports on corrective action which is being implemented in the 24-25 year to address the shortfall in resource.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 There are no impacts foreseen which would affect the Council's equalities obligations.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 There is no expected impact of the proposals on the Council's crime and disorder duties.

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 There are no anticipated impacts.

3.4 Dependencies

- 3.4.1 The delivery of the plans depends on the staff resource being available on a consistent basis.

Environment Committee

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4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The resource to deliver the work comes from existing budgets in the public protection area.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council has statutory duties in relation to these service areas, this includes carrying out effective and appropriate official controls and having sufficient numbers of qualified and experienced staff. 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 There is a likelihood that significant long term under delivery of the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice will result in an escalation process from central government. In exceptional cases the FSA and the HSE have powers to take over the duties of persistently under performing Councils.
- 5.3 **Legal Officer's comments: None save as outlined in 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 not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None directly from this report.
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** None.

7 Background papers

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

Environment Committee

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- Food safety service and health and safety intervention plans (Environment Committee, June 2023)

7.2 Other papers:

7.3 Food Law Code of Practice, 2023 (Food Standards Agency)

7.4 Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities, 2010 (Food Standards Agency) accessed 22/5/24