

Title of Report	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23	
Presented by	Councillor Andrew Woodman andrew.woodman@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Portfolio Holder Community Services	
Background Papers	Food Standards Agency – The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities. THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON LOCAL AUTHORITY FOOD LAW REGULATION	Public Report: Yes
	Food Standards Agency – Food Law Code of Practice (England) (Issue: March 2021) Food and Feed Codes of Practice Food Standards Agency	Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	There is a risk that additional staffing resource will be required to carry out the checks on imported food entering Great Britain through East Midlands Airport. Additional costs will however be recovered through inspection income from the importers.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	All legal implications are detailed in the Service Plan	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There is a risk that additional resources may be required to deliver the full inspection programme. An earmarked reserve application has been submitted for this purpose.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To inform members of the content of the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022/23 as required by the Food Standards Agency To inform members of the performance against the 2021/22 service delivery plan	
Reason for Decision	To approve the content of the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022/23 as required by the Food Standards Agency.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT CABINET:</p> <p>(1) APPROVES THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23 APPENDED TO THIS REPORT AND</p>	

	(2) NOTES THE PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/22
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Food Safety function is delivered by the Environmental Health team. When providing the Food Safety function, the council must have regard to the 'Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities' ("the Framework Agreement") which sets out the standards agreed with the Food Standards Agency.
- 1.2 The Framework Agreement requires each food safety service to document and implement a Food Safety Service Plan in accordance with a specified standard. In addition a documented performance review of the plan is required to be carried out at least once a year. The Framework Agreement requires the Service Plan, together with the performance review to be submitted for member approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.
- 1.3 The Environmental Health Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022/23 is attached at **Appendix 1.**

2.0 LINKS TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

- 2.1 The work of the food safety service links to two of the council priorities, 'Support for businesses' and 'Our communities are safe, healthy and connected'.

Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs: The provision of regulatory advice and guidance provides a business with the confidence to grow. For example:

- Regulatory advice can result in a business saving money by avoiding gold plated compliance;
- By seeking advice from a regulator before opening or expanding, a business can avoid spending money in areas which fail to comply with the law;
- Regulatory advice provides a business with reassurance and peace of mind;
- Regulatory advice is free, avoiding a business the cost of appointing a private sector consultant;
- Regulatory advice from a local government officer is viewed by business as 'straight from the horse's mouth', and can be relied upon.

Our communities are safe, healthy and connected: The work of the service helps ensure our residents and visitors have safe and healthy places to work, eat and enjoy.

3.0 MAIN FOCUS OF THE 2022/23 PLAN

- 3.1 Introduction of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures (import checks to protect animal, plant or public health).

The team are planning for the introduction of checks on foodstuffs and other controlled goods entering Great Britain from the EU via East Midlands Airport. The start date for the checks has been delayed on four occasions with checks now scheduled to be introduced in 2023. The majority of the preparation will involve resource planning by anticipating the volume of trade and matching that service demand with adequate inspection resource from our Official Veterinary Surgeon and Environmental Health Officers.

The Government is planning to publish a target operating model in the Autumn of 2022 and introduce proportionate, risk-based border controls in 2023.

3.2 Covid Recovery

The Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan is expected to conclude on 31 March 2023. The team will be adequately resourced to enable the national targets to be met.

4.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND TARGETS 2022/23

4.1 The food industry is regulated by a range of legislation that aims to keep our food safe. Our work with food businesses is focussed on helping them comply with food safety legislation and offering support and advice. This is seen as a critical area of our work by central government and the Covid-19 Food Inspection Recovery Plan is a key priority for the next 12 months.

Performance Indicator	Target
Establishments rated risk category B to have received an onsite intervention	100% 30 June 2022
Establishments rated risk category C and less than broadly compliant to have received an onsite intervention	100% 30 September 2022
Establishments rated risk category D and less than broadly compliant to have received an onsite intervention	100% 31 December 2022
Establishments rated risk category C and broadly compliant to have received an onsite intervention	100% 31 March 2023

5.0 SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021/22

5.1 During 2021 the Environmental Health team have been heavily involved in the response to and recovery from Covid-19. During the period of covid restrictions many of the businesses scheduled for inspections were forced to close or adapt their business. The focus of resource at this time was given to monitoring the business closures and responding to concerns raised by members of the public. As restrictions began to ease the team experienced a high demand from business owners requesting guidance on how to open safely. The food safety team provided support to businesses by guiding them to make their premises covid-secure.

5.2 As restrictions lifted the Food Standards Agency (FSA) published its food hygiene inspection recovery plan, which was the main focus of the 2021 plan. The food team met and exceeded the targets set by the FSA. The Food Standards Agency set a target of risk assessing all businesses that commenced trading during the pandemic, inspecting 100% of high-risk unrated establishments and to inspect all existing food establishments rated risk category A. All of the targets were achieved.

5.3 The team are on track to achieve the next target of inspecting 100% establishments risk category B before 30 June 2022, with 92% inspected on 31 March 2022.

5.4 In addition to the above the team inspected 430 food establishments rated as category C, D and E, exceeding the expectations of the Food Standards Agency.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	Food Safety Service Delivery Plan
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	None
Customer Impact:	NWL residents and visitors have safe and healthy places to work, eat and enjoy.
Economic and Social Impact:	The provision of regulatory advice and guidance provides a business with the confidence to grow Consumer confidence that eateries are safe and hygienic
Environment and Climate Change:	No impact
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None
Risks:	If the authority fails to discharge its duty imposed by the Food Safety Act 1990 the enforcement functions may be transferred to another authority. Adverse publicity, both locally and nationally may be received.
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