

	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes
Staffing and Corporate Implications	The delivery plan will be undertaken within existing resources.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes
Purpose of Report	To inform Members of and seek approval for, the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2026/2027 as required by the Food Standards Agency. To inform Members of the service performance in 2025/2026.
Reason for Decision	To enable the Council to discharge its statutory duties under the Food Safety Act 1990 and comply with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement by approving the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2026/27.
Recommendations	(1) THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2026/27 APPENDED TO THIS REPORT BE APPROVED. (2) THAT THE PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025/26 BE NOTED.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 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. These duties arise from primary legislation including the Food Safety Act 1990 and associated regulations.
- 1.2 The Framework Agreement requires each food safety service to document and implement a Food Safety Service Delivery 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 2026/27 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2.0 MAIN FOCUS OF THE 2026/27 PLAN

2.1 Planned Activities

- Undertake a programme of food safety interventions consisting of inspection, auditing and sampling will be carried out at high and medium risk food establishments (Categories A, B, C, D and unrated).
- Undertake a programme of official and non-official food controls of low-risk food establishments (risk category E)
- Investigate food and food premises complaints and all outbreaks and incidents of food related illnesses.

- Provide information and advice on food safety to businesses and customers.
- Undertake a programme of food, water and environmental sampling.
- Promote the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme for food establishments within the district. Food establishments will be encouraged to display their rating.
- Facilitate international trade through the issuing of export certificates, organic certification and catch certificates (fish).
- Operate the inspection facility at East Midlands Airport (EMA). Check all products of animal origin and certain high-risk foods not of animal origin entering the United Kingdom for the first time via EMA.

2.2 **Government Policy on Managing Britain's Borders and implications for operating the border control post at East Midlands Airport**

Food Export Health Certificates

Export Health Certificates are issued to food businesses that wish to export certain foodstuffs from Great Britain to European Union countries and other non-EU countries. They are provided to help local exporters meet food safety requirements. The team checks that the business is registered with the Council and that the food hygiene standards are satisfactory before issuing the certificate.

Imported Foods at Point of Entry (East Midlands Airport)

Border Control Post (BCP) – Products of animal origin

The team manages and operates the border control post (BCP) at East Midlands Airport (EMA). The BCP is subject to audits and verification visits by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

The Official Veterinarian Surgeon (OVS) inspects all other products of animal origin entering Great Britain via the Border Control Post. Support is provided by officers of the Food Safety Team.

Catch certificates (Fish and Fishery Products)

Illegal fishing has environmental, social and economic impacts. Europe-wide import controls, introduced by the EC in 2008 and retained in UK legislation from 1 January 2021, aim to cut out Europe and the UK as a market for illegal fish. In order to prove that an imported consignment is compliant with regulations, it must be accompanied by a catch certificate. Checking catch certificates at East Midlands Airport (EMA) is the responsibility of the Food Team within Environmental Health.

Border Control Post (BCP) – High risk foods not of animal origin

Controls are in place under UK law to make sure products imported into Great Britain meet GB standards.

The BCP at EMA is approved to handle food products for human consumption, both not requiring temperature control and chilled, and feed and other products not for human consumption, both not requiring temperature control and chilled.

Officers of the Food Safety Team are responsible for checking all 'high-risk' foods of non-animal origin from the rest of the world entering Great Britain via the border control post.

Organic Products

Controls are in place to check that organic products imported into Great Britain comply with organic production standards. Importers of consignments of organic products must submit the required documentation to the Food Team within Environmental Health for checking prior to importation.

Surveillance

A risk-based programme of surveillance will be carried out. This will involve officers carrying out checks of flight manifests and visits to transit sheds. Sampling of foodstuffs found may be undertaken.

3.0 REVIEW OF 2025/26

- 3.1 The Food service delivery plan appended to this report sets out at section 8, a detailed account and review of programmed inspections.

During 2025/2026, the Food Safety Service continued to deliver a strong level of regulatory activity across programmed inspections, service requests, complaints, sampling, infectious disease investigations and Border Control Post operations.

Overall, 94% of programmed interventions were completed, with high completion rates across risk categories and continued progress made despite a backlog of unrated premises.

The service dealt with 54 food hygiene service requests, 26 food complaints and 73 requests for food safety advice, while also responding to 21 suspected food poisoning cases and 25 confirmed infectious disease notifications.

At East Midlands Airport, significant activity continued through the Border Control Post, including processing 437 catch certificates, handling large volumes of imported products and undertaking enforcement action where required.

The year also saw continued liaison with partner agencies, support for businesses, promotion of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, and the maintenance of staff competence through ongoing professional development.

4.0 RESOURCES

- 4.1 The budget for the provision of the food safety service is £376,330. The general expenses incurred by the service such as training, salaries and administrative costs are budgeted for as part of the budget for Environmental Health.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Environmental Health Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2026/27 appended to this report be approved.
- (2) That the performance and achievements in 2025/26 be noted.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs. - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected.
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	No negative impact
Customer Impact:	Delivery of the food safety service delivery plan will ensure that food manufactured, purchased and consumed is safe.
Economic and Social Impact:	Regulatory support provided to food establishments will support economic growth. Publication of food hygiene ratings will provide consumer confidence.
Environment and Climate Change:	None
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None
Risks:	Failing to approve an adequately resourced food safety service delivery plan would present a risk to the Council.
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