

Neighbourhood Services Committee



24 June 2021

Title	Food and Health and Safety Service Plans for 2021/22
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Tracey Willmott-French, Senior Environmental Health Manager
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	
Corporate Priority	Clean and Safe Environment
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: 1, adopt the proposed Food Service Plan 2021/2022 2, adopt the proposed Health and Safety Service Plan 2021/2022
Reason for Recommendation	Local Authorities are required to produce and adopt annual service plans for their food safety and health and safety enforcement services (section 2.3 of this report refers).

1. Key issues

- 1.1 Local Authorities are required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to produce annual service plans for their food safety and health and safety services. Each service plan must outline the aims and objectives for the year ahead and evaluate the achievements of the past year.
- 1.2 This report briefly outlines the main achievements of Environmental Health's Commercial Team who is responsible for enacting the plans and the objectives. The report also outlines the main objectives for this coming year.

Achievements

- 1.3 Food Safety Service Plan - in 2020/21 the team continued to focus their resources on the highest risk food businesses. They carried out 253 food hygiene inspections, sent 157 written warnings, served 11 hygiene improvement notices, and investigated 78 complaints.
- 1.4 The team has also continued to participate in the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS); 96.3% of eligible businesses have ratings of three or above. Those businesses who are below this standard will continue to be targeted for improvement with revisits and where appropriate taking further legal action against them; 1.6% of businesses have a rating of 0 or 1 (represents 12 food businesses).

- 1.5 Health and Safety in the Workplace Service Plan - in 2020/21, visits to business premises included 146 proactive targeted inspections based on local or national intelligence that indicated a health and safety intervention was appropriate, 27 visits to investigate complaints and accidents, and 1 revisit.

Objectives

- 1.6 The main objectives for the Food Safety Service Plan 2021/2022 are outlined on page 4 of the plan and include a target of inspecting at least 95% of higher risk food businesses, the promotion of the FHRS with 92% of all food businesses achieving a food hygiene ratio of 3 or above, and to respond to a minimum of 95% of service requests within six days. The Food Safety Service Plan 2021/2022 is provided at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.7 The main objectives for the Health and Safety Service Plan 2021/2022 are outlined on page 3 of the plan and include a target of 100% of all Category A inspections, to respond to at least 95% of service requests and accidents within six days, and to participate in selected national/regional projects. for the Health and Safety Service Plan 2021/2022 is provided at **Appendix 2**

Review

- 1.8 This year has been an extraordinary year due to the impacts of the pandemic which required the redirection of Environmental Health resources to preventing the spread of covid-19. An outline of the covid work being carried out by the team throughout the pandemic is provided at **Appendix 3**. Consequently, last year's Food Safety Service Plan has not been fully met with only 87% of interventions being carried out.
- 1.9 Despite continuously recruiting over the last eight months for temporary EHOs we have not been successful. We have therefore engaged contractor EHOs (1 FTE) until December and are continuing to recruit others. The recruitment and retention of qualified EHOs remains a concern for local authorities nationally.
- 1.10 The team's priorities for 2021/22 is to continue its work to prevent the spread of covid-19, including variants of concern, to clear last year's backlog of food hygiene interventions, and to achieve this year's planned food and health and safety interventions.

	Inspections outstanding from 2020-2021	Inspections due in 2021-2022	Total no. of inspections due in 2021-2022
A	0	1	1
B	8	9	17
C	54	67	121
D	82	115	197
E	82	65	147
Total	226	257	483*
*Includes 54 new premises requiring 1 st inspection			

The inspections to be done as outlined in the table do not include follow-up revisits to assess progress of works requires, or inspection of new premises not included in the 54 mentioned.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The preferred option is to adopt the proposed service plans for 2021/22, and for them to come into effect within 7-days of approval.
 - 2.2 There is also an option for Members to amend the proposed service plans.
 - 2.3 There is an option for Members not to adopt the proposed service plans. This would mean the Council would not be following either the Food Standards Agency's "Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement", or the Health and Safety Executive's Guidance, as this requires local authorities to have food and health and safety service plans and recommends that the plans relate specifically to food and health and safety enforcement. If these service plans are not adopted, the likelihood of the FSA or HSE auditing us would increase.
- 3. Financial implications**
- 3.1 The proposed service plans will be delivered within the proposed budget for 2021/22. The financial implications have been discussed with the relevant finance staff.
- 4. Other considerations**
- 4.1 Under the Food Standards Act 1999 and the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Food Standards Agency and Health and Safety Executive have powers to audit respectively any local authority's food and health and safety enforcement services. In exceptional cases, the FSA and the HSE have the powers to take over the duties of persistently under-performing councils.
- 5. Equality and Diversity**
- 5.1 Adoption of the proposed service plans provides a level ground for compliant businesses.
- 6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**
- 6.1 The proposed service plans have no impact on sustainability or climate change issues.
- 7. Timetable for implementation**
- 7.1 If the service plans are approved, they shall come into effect after seven days.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Food Service Plan 2021/2022

Appendix 2 - Health and Safety Service Plan 2021/2022