

Food Safety Delivery Plan (reviewed 2020/2021)

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Community & Environmental Services
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PURPOSE

1. In order to meet statutory requirements, the Council's Environmental Health and Licensing Team is responsible for Food Safety enforcement and must have in place approved plans. In line with the Constitution, approval of the Food Safety Delivery Plan will be sought from Full Council.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Executive recommends to Full Council to approve the Food Safety Delivery Plan (reviewed 2020/2021), detailed at Appendix 1 to this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To formally review past performance and agree a framework for the future delivery of effective, risk based, proportionate and consistent food safety services.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Food Safety Act 1990 Codes of Practice provides a framework within which the Food Safety Team must operate when carrying out its public protection duties in relation to food safety. The Food Standards Agency requires the Council to have plans in place to control these activities. The Food Safety Delivery Plan has been prepared to satisfy the statutory requirements and outline the services to be provided over the coming year.

5. **Burnley Food Safety Delivery Plan**

This Plan is a requirement of the Food Standards Agency and has been drawn up in accordance with the Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement (amendment 5, April 2010). This ensures a consistent approach across England and Wales, which enables the Food Standards Agency to address how the

council is performing. It also allows the Food Standards Agency and Local Authorities to compare and contrast performance and service delivery.

It sets out:

- An outline of the key services and work activity delivered.
- The Council's statement on food safety and the links with corporate priorities and objectives
- A profile of the Borough including the political and managerial arrangements.
- The demands on the service
- Summary of service activity in relation to premises inspection, complaints investigation, advice, sampling, infectious diseases, food safety incidents, liaison arrangements and promotional activities
- The resources deployed to meet these demands.
- Quality assessment procedures and performance indicators

6. Key services and work activity delivered by the Food Safety Team include:-

- Carrying out routine, programmed inspections of local food businesses.
- Responding to Service requests including food complaints and hygiene of premises complaints
- Investigating notifications of infectious diseases and local outbreaks, which may be associated with food.
- Promoting food safety and best practice by working closely with local businesses
- Working with the Food Standards Agency to run and maintain the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

7. As we know, 2020/21 and to date has been an unprecedented period in light of the Covid19 pandemic. Since February 2020, significant additional duties in relation to the regulation, implementation and inspection of the duties and powers regarding Covid 19 have fallen on local authority Environmental Health teams to administer. Environmental Health & Licensing have played a vital role in explaining rules and regulations to the local businesses and local communities and supporting businesses in how to operate in a safe, covid- secure way. As such, certain BAU functions have required review.

The Food Safety Delivery Plan would normally go to Full Council in December (rather than in April as in this case). Please note this to understand any issues about timing and the period it covers.

As can be seen from Table 6 of Appendix 1, for figures relating to 2019/2020 the Food Safety Team have maintained a high level of performance. The Team were unable to complete the full intended inspection programme due to Covid19 restrictions in February and March 2020 (The programme runs from April 2019 to March 2020). However, the team have still performed well against the inspection programme, and have undertaken a high number of inspections with compliance levels of food businesses being maintained at 97%.

For the inspection programme that runs from April 2020 to March 2021, due to officers having to prioritise Covid19 duties during the Covid19 Pandemic we have taken guidance from the Food Standards Agency and have prioritised higher rated businesses and new businesses over the last few months. This work has been maintained, in accordance with the Food Standards Agency recommendations and the Council have maintained a food safety inspection regime whilst many authorities within the current climate have suspended this work to re-purpose environmental health resource for the Covid19 response. The Council recognises that this work is important to maintain community confidence at a time when food outlets continue to operate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

8. Food Safety Regulation is a core statutory service delivered by Environmental Health and Licensing Team. It remains provided in existing service budgets.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. As national regulators, the Food Standards Agency set and monitor national standards. The framework for local plans is prescribed to ensure “official controls” are consistently delivered across the country. Through audit, and annual returns they monitor local authorities to ensure that local controls are effective, and they have intervention powers where delivery fails to meet the required standard

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. Scrutiny and Executive will be consulted prior to Full Council decision

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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ALSO: Karen Davies