

Food Safety Delivery Plan (reviewed 2021/2022)

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 2021 to 2022), 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. The 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 these 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

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

As we know, 2020/21 has been an unprecedented period in light of the Covid19 pandemic. Since March 2020, significant additional duties in relation to the regulation, implementation and inspection of the duties and powers regarding Covid 19 have been undertaken by 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.

6. Future Delivery of Food Safety Services

In July 2021 many of the coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were removed. All businesses and venues, including nightclubs and adult entertainment venues, were able to open. All capacity limits at sporting, entertainment, or business events, at this time were also lifted.

Hospitality venues such as pubs, restaurants and bars at this time were no longer required to provide table service or follow other social distancing rules that had been introduced earlier that year as part of England's Covid response.

From July 2021, the Council's Environmental Health & Licensing, in accordance with national practice, set out a recovery plan for 'business as usual' functions detailing

the work that had accrued due to covid 19 duties and prioritisation of Covid response work, associated with outbreak management, contact tracing and community testing. The recovery plan for Food Safety was based on the requirements of the national Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan. During the response phase of the Pandemic the council had continued to prioritise the higher risk food businesses and to respond to all complaints/queries and inspect the new businesses, again in accordance with national guidance. The return to 'business as usual' activities has enabled the Team to reintroduce a plan for all food risk inspections to be resumed and are programmed into our inspection program for 2021/2022.

The Recovery plan also involves clearing a backlog of lower risk inspections that were incurred in 2019/20, in accordance with the prioritisation of the '1st wave Covid response'. The Council are in the process of responding to these inspections.

In April 2020 to March 2021, we completed 49 inspections and we had 154 inspection visits that were overdue.

In line with FSA guidance and controlling the spread of Covid19, from 01/04/20 to 05/11/21 we have:

- **completed 61 higher risk-rated inspections.**
- **completed 136 New Inspections.**
- **Responded to 803 service requests for food.**

In 2020/21 the number of broadly compliant premises across the Borough was 98% and continues to be 98%. This is a key performance measure used within the service

7. Residual Covid Activity

Officers continue to be involved with work relating to Covid 19, this includes:

- Outbreak management in workplace settings
- Test & Trace Support to Liberata in both the management and daily delivery of services.
- Collation and referral of data to Calico

At the end of December 2021, Local Authorities received an indication that further details in early 2022 may follow from the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on the potential regulatory services that could be re-prioritised by Council's due to current national concerns of the rise in Covid cases (known as the Omicron Variant). At this stage it is unknown as to whether the work outlined in the Food Safety Delivery Plan will be affected. The Council will, however, continue to work with the relevant Government agencies on this, should this work be re-prioritised.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

8. Food Safety Regulation is a core statutory service delivered by Environmental Health and Licensing Team and is covered by 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