

Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022/23

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



DATE	19th January 2023
PORTFOLIO	Community & Environment
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PURPOSE

1. The regulatory team responsible for Food Safety must have in place a Service Plan for the Delivery of Official Controls to meet the requirements of statutory guidance. This report formally consults the Committee on the plans prior to their approval at Full Council.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the report be considered by Scrutiny & Executive Committees.
3. That Executive recommend Full Council to approve the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022/2023, detailed at Appendix 1 to this report; and
4. That Full Council approve the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022/2023, detailed at Appendix 1 to this report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

5. The Council has a statutory obligation to conduct a range of food enforcement functions in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety Act 1990 and a range of regulations made under the Act.
6. The Food Standards Agency’s (FSA) “Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities” sets out what the FSA expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law.
7. It is a requirement of the Framework Agreement to produce a service plan for the delivery of official food controls. The Food Safety Service Delivery Plan appended to this report has been prepared to satisfy this requirement.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

8. The Food Safety Service Delivery Plan explains how we will protect and promote food safety throughout the Borough. It also provides a mechanism to review performance and agree a framework for the future delivery of effective, risk based, proportionate and consistent food safety services.

The content of the plan has been written in accordance with the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) Framework Agreement.

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.

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

- Carrying out routine, programmed inspections of local food businesses.
- Responding to complaints about food and the hygiene of food premises.
- Investigating infectious diseases and local outbreaks that are associated with food.
- Promoting food safety and best practice by working closely with local businesses
- Working with the FSA to operate and maintain the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

The Food Safety Delivery Plan provides a series of data profile tables which describe the types of businesses that we have in Burnley and their risk.

In recognition of the challenges LAs were facing in delivering their statutory food functions whilst having to prioritise protecting communities from COVID-19, the FSA published the Recovery Plan. This enabled LAs to target scarce resources at the most high-risk establishments while deferring planned interventions, particularly for low-risk premises. **The delivery plan intends to meet the requirements of the Recovery Plan.**

There are 6 milestones over two phases to the recovery plan:

• **Phase 1** - 1 July to 30 September 2021

1st milestone with a focus on prioritising new business inspections
And planning to deliver an intervention plan from October 2021

• **Phase 2** – 1 October 2021 to March 2024

2nd milestone by 31st March 2022 – All rated Category A received an onsite intervention

3rd milestone by 30th June 2022 - All rated Category B received an onsite intervention.

4th milestone by 30th September 2022 – All rated Category C and less than broadly compliant receive an onsite intervention.

5th milestone by 31st December 2022 – All rated Category D and less than broadly compliant receive an onsite intervention.

6th milestone by 31st March 2023 – All rated Category C and broadly compliant receive an onsite intervention.

9. Performance against the Recovery Plan

Using diverted Contain Outbreak Management Funds (COMF), contractors have been engaged to assist the Team to clear the backlog of inspection work.

In 2021/2022 we completed a total of 540 Official Control Interventions

Category	A	B	C	D	E	Unrated	Total
Number	5	31	53	139	82	230	540

The backlog of 230 unrated/new businesses has been cleared. Since 2020, the numbers of new business registrations received have exceeded 100 per annum.

The Team continue working with businesses to bring about any necessary improvements. Officers initially provide advice, reports, letters, coaching, revisits and where necessary move to the use of more formal enforcement measures.

In addition to inspection work we responded to 671 requests for service and carried out 65 other interventions.

As can be seen from Section 7 of the Service Delivery Plan, the Food Safety Team have maintained a high level of performance which exceeds the expectations of the Recovery Plan.

10. The workplan for 2022/23 will continue to align with the FSA Recovery Plan. The Food Safety Team, where they can, move at a faster pace in realigning with the intervention frequencies and other provisions set out in the Food Law Codes of Practice

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. Food Safety regulation is a core statutory service delivered by the Environmental Health & Licensing Team, under contract to Liberata UK Ltd.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. 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, 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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: Lisa Fay

ALSO: Karen Davies