

**Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 24/25**

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE**



<b>DATE</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Community, Health &amp; Environment</b>
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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 annual Service Delivery Plan 2024/25 incorporates a review of performance against the 22/23 plan and sets priorities for 24/25. The Plan is consulted with Scrutiny and Executive prior to 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 Delivery Plan 2024/25, detailed at Appendix 1 to this report and
4. That Full Council approve the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2024/2025, 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.

## 9. Performance against the Recovery Plan

Following the Covid pandemic the Food Standards Agency introduced a Recovery Plan for the period 2021-23 which set the standard for local authority performance. Locally we have ensured that work is carried out to meet the requirements of the FSA's Plan. For the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 we completed a total of 724 Interventions

Category	A	B	C	D	E	Unrated	Total
Number	4	56	112	204	220	128	724

137 interventions were carried forward from year ending 2022. All of which have been completed in advance of the deadlines set in the FSA Recovery Plan. (These interventions are included in the table above).

Since 2020, the numbers of new business registrations received have exceeded 100 per annum, which whilst positive in terms of business start-ups in the Borough, such numbers continue to add pressure to officer resource.

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 **405 requests for service** and carried out **160 other interventions** (includes revisits to follow up non-compliance).

10. Following the completion of the FSA Recovery Plan, the workplan for 2024/25 will again realign with the statutory inspection frequencies outlined the Food Law Codes of Practice, and will continue to do so in future years.

#### **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**