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## Public Protection Food and Feed Control Plan – Summary Report

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Committee considering report:	Joint Public Protection Committee
Date of Committee:	12 June 2017
Date agreed by Joint Management Board:	19 May 2017
Report Author:	Sean Murphy

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To set out the draft plans for the enforcement of food and animal feed controls and to seek approval for the plan

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Committee approve the draft plans.

### 3. Implications

**Financial:** The resources allocated to these functions are set out in the attached plans. All expenditure for these functions will be met from existing revenue. Local authorities receive grants from the Food Standards Agency for enforcing the controls relating to animal feed. The work in schools on nutrition in West Berkshire is funded by the Public Health Service and is only delivered in West Berkshire.

**Policy:** If approved the Plans would set out the over-arching delivery model for all aspects of the Partnership approach to protecting the food chain. The plans include key priority areas as well as setting out how we will deliver against our statutory requirements.

**Personnel:** The resource allocated to these functions in terms of officer time is set out in the detailed plans. There are currently a number of vacancies across the Partnership including vacancies in the area of work covered by the attached plans. These are being considered as part of the wider Public Protection staffing structure and budget position.

**Legal:** The IAA that set up the Partnership effectively delegates responsibility for the strategic direction of the joint service to the Joint Committee. The responsibilities of the committee are set out in Schedule 1 to the agreement.

Included in those responsibilities is the enforcement of legislation relating to the control of food safety, hygiene, quality, labelling and animal feed safety, hygiene and standards. These legislative requirements sit alongside Statutory Codes of Practice issued under the Food Safety Act 1990.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) developed the 'Framework Agreement on official feed and food law controls' that sets out what the FSA expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law. It also requires that a feed and food plan(s) is considered annually by each authority with responsibility for exercising controls.

**Risk Management:** There are no specific risk identified in this report,

**Property:** No implications.

**Other:** None

#### **4. Other options considered**

The FSA Framework agreement and Statutory Codes of Practice are fairly prescriptive in who should carry out food enforcement functions, what should be prioritised and how certain activities should be carried out. The plans contain a mixture of activities based on those prescribed as well as other priorities identified through local, regional and national working.

#### **5. Executive Summary**

5.1. The Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) between the Councils sets out of the functions that are delegated to the Joint Committee under the terms of the agreement. These include an array of statutory functions relating to the enforcement of food hygiene, safety, quality, labelling and health, nutrition claims and other claims such as organic, gm free.. In addition there are a range of measures relating to safety, standards, labelling and hygiene of animal feed.

5.2. The IAA also identifies the key priority areas for the service which are community protection; protection and improving health; protection of the environment; supporting prosperity and economic growth and the delivery of effective and improving service.

5.3. The implementation of food and feed controls by local authorities is controlled through a combination of EU and domestic implementing legislation. There are statutory codes issued under the Food Safety Act 1990 that deal with a range of matters from practical issues relating to risk assessment, inspection programmes and the implementation of enforcement controls. They also deal

in detail with officer competences and internal controls required by food and feed enforcement authorities. These controls are subject to a range of reporting requirements to the EU via FSA as well as a Framework Agreement. The FSA also have a local authority audit programme to ensure that all of these requirements are being met. Failure of audits can have significant consequences for enforcement authorities.

5.4. One requirement of the 'Framework Agreement' is that local authorities produce a plan to a prescribed format setting out how they intend to discharge their statutory functions in relation to food and animal feed. The plan is required to set out priorities, inspection targets, areas for improvement and resource levels. In future years it is proposed that there is one plan encompassing all aspects of our work in this area. However this year there are two separate plans. Firstly a plan produced by the Environmental Health Commercial Team setting out work in relation to food hygiene and safety (Appendix B). The second relates to the Trading Standards work on farms and in relation to food standards, quality, labelling and animal feed controls.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1. The documents at Appendix B and Appendix C set out in detail of how the Partnership plans to deliver the statutory functions of the three authorities that operate through the Partnership arrangement. Officers are of the view the plans represent the best balance between the requirements placed on the service and the resource levels available to deliver against the key requirements and objectives.

6.2. This is one of many important areas of responsibility that falls to the Partnership in that it impacts the health and wellbeing of residents and recognises that the food industry at all levels from farming to restaurants is important to the local economy. In this industry confidence is everything. A strong regulatory framework is designed to provide that confidence and ensure fair competition.

6.3. The Committee is asked to consider and approve the plans.

## **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Supporting Report

Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix C - Food Safety Service Plan 2017-18

Appendix D – Food Standards and Animal Feed Standards and Safety Delivery Plan 2017-18