
Public Protection Partnership Food and Feed Plan – Supporting Information

1. Supporting Information – Food Control

- 1.1 Legal controls relating to food quality and safety have been in place for many years. Traditionally they have focussed on preventing adulteration and standards. Over the years a wide range of product specific controls were developed ranging from bread to jam and milk and cheese to meat products and many other products that were considered staple foods. A wide range of these controls are in place supported by broader cross cutting legislation relating to food safety, additives, labelling and traceability.
- 1.2 Issues still arise in relation to adulteration and examples in recent years have included the horsemeat scandal, fake alcohol with all the associated health effects, sudan 1 dye cancer scare etc. Many reports also relate to undeclared allergens on products. These often led to recalls once identified.
- 1.3 The majority of food controls are European in origin and form part of the framework arrangements for the Single Market. There are still in place domestic controls relating to the nature, substance and quality of food as well as misleading labelling and advertising.
- 1.4 There is a range of legislation also designed to control the safety and handling of food as well as setting out the hygiene standards of premises. These give authorised officers a range of powers including issuing improvement notices through to closing premises and seizure of food. Clearly such significant powers need to be exercised in a defined framework that includes competency requirements.
- 1.5 In recent times the health benefits and risks relating to food have come to the fore. Cardiovascular disease, certain cancers and obesity are often linked to food as a range of benefits in such as cholesterol reducing, health heart and brain functions and a whole range vitamin, mineral and food supplements. In recognition of this a new framework has been put in place to provide for clearer but more comprehensive labelling as well as approved health and nutrition claims. This combined with other specific labelling requirements relating to areas such as genetically modified, organic, geographical protections and irradiated foods allow for informed consumer choice. These are complicated areas of law and the officers that deliver many areas have to meet competence and CPD requirements.
- 1.6 There are close to 4,000 food businesses across the three authorities. These range from large manufacturers through to small scale caterers operating from home such as child minders. Each presents their own risk profile based on the type and scale of business and the history of the operator. Different risk schemes operate for food hygiene as opposed to standards. A business which is rated high for standards may be rated low risk for hygiene. The plans attached set out how the risk criteria laid

down by the Food Standards Agency have been employed to develop and inspection an audit programme across the range of premises and across geographical areas. In addition the service takes a range of samples, carries out market surveillance, responds to many hundred enquiries and complaints and carries out a range of interventions from improvement notices to investigations and occasionally legal actions in the form of criminal prosecutions.

- 1.7 To support business we provide a range of advice, training courses for food hygiene and operate schemes that allow them to market themselves such as the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and Eat out Eat Well. These also play a dual role in enabling consumers to make an informed choice and in the case of the rating scheme driving up standards.
- 1.8 Finally all this information designed to allow people to make health choices is of little use if people are not able to understand the significance of the information before them. In West Berkshire we have been running a number of projects relating to school lunchboxes, low income families and a programme aimed at year 3 primary school children aimed at equipping them to make choices by understanding food and it labelling in more detail. This is funded by the West Berkshire Public Health Service as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The idea of such initiatives is to acknowledge that legislation exists in a context. In this case it about health and well-being. We will look at whether is scope to extend this to Wokingham and Bracknell.

2. Supporting Information – Animal Feed

- 2.1 Like food controls have existed for a long time to govern the safety and composition of animal feeds. Over the years failures in these controls have come to the fore on a number of high profile occasions e.g. salmonella in poultry and eggs, foot and mouth disease and most notably BSE and the links to vCJD. These failures led to health risk, injury to health and loss of life. They also cost the economy many £Bs.
- 2.2 It is also recognised that farmed animals form part of the food chain and safety issues arising in animal feed can pass through to the food chain or indeed affect the health of the animals directly. Examples include dioxins and microtoxins. Attached to the Food and Feed Plan is a briefing note which explains some of the work in his area.
- 2.3 Our work in this area extends beyond hygiene into quality of feed, labelling and contamination. Like food it is a specialised area of law and practice and one that the PPP has significant expertise in. So much so that we host regional officer who carries out visits to farms across Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey and east and West Sussex. The Public Protection Manager is also a member and former Chair of the National Trading Standards Board - Feed Governance Group who deliver the strategy and managed the funding on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.

3. Concluding Comments

- 3.1 This area of work remains high profile and high priority. Safe food and feed, informed choice for consumers and fair competition between businesses are all important as is confidence in food business operators and products. On the latter point we have seen numerous occasions where loss of confidence has led to

economic damage and loss of markets. All of our work feeds into a national and international picture and allows foodstuffs to travel freely and be exported.

Background Papers:

None.

Papers containing facts or material you have relied on to prepare your report. The public can access these background papers.

PPP Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Public Protection Partnership aims as stated in the Inter Authority Agreement:

- ☐ 1 – Community Protection
 - ☒ 2 – Protecting and Improving Health
 - ☒ 3 – Protection of the Environment
 - ☐ 4 – Supporting Prosperity and Economic Growth
 - ☐ 5 – Effective and Improving Service Delivery
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Officer details:

Name: Sea Murphy
Job Title: Public Protection Manager
Tel No: 01635 519840
E-mail Address: sean.murphy@westberks.gov.uk

Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- “(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:***
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;***
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:***
 - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;***
 - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;***
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.***
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.***
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.”***

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Committee to make:	To approve the Public Protection Partnership Food and Feed Control Plans
Summary of relevant legislation:	Food Safety Act 1990 Agriculture Act 1970 European Communities Act 1972 and various orders and regulations made thereunder.
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	No
Name of assessor:	Sean Murphy
Date of assessment:	01/06/2017

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	
Strategy	Yes	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes
Function	Yes	Is changing	No
Service	Yes		

1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	To agree and the priorities of the Partnership in relation to is statutory food and animal feed control duties
Objectives:	To ensure that the functions are delivered in a way that meets the requirements of the law and in so doing protects and promotes health of people and farm animals
Outcomes:	Well regulated food businesses and the provision of informed choice
Benefits:	The protection of health of humans and animals and scope for better health choices as well as fair competition between businesses.

2. Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender

Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	None	
Disability	None	
Gender Reassignment	None	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	none	
Pregnancy and Maternity	None	
Race	Yes	Food businesses are operated by a range of operators some of whom do not have English as a first language. Advice and guidance is maintained and provided in a variety of languages to meet the needs of local operators.
Religion or Belief	None	
Sex	None	
Sexual Orientation	None	
Further Comments relating to the item:		
The proposal is for the relocation of staff by co-locating with BL services within the Public Estate and as such is compliant with current accessibility requirements		

3. Result	
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The premises are accessibility compliant	
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	no
Please provide an explanation for your answer: Possibly - this will need to be explored through staff consultation on the proposal; this has not yet been undertaken. The main impact will possibly be changes in travel time and distance to a new work base	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the [Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template](#).

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	No
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	

Name: Sean Murphy

Date:

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.

