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**Public Protection Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2019-2020 – Report**

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Committee considering report: Joint Public Protection Committee  
Date of Committee: 11 June 2019  
Report Author: George Lawrence

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report accompanies the Official Feed & Food Controls Service Plan 2019-2020 (“the plan”). The Committee are asked to agree the items summarised in appendix A to this report which are taken from the plan, and to note the plan at appendix B. Appendix C provides supporting information.

The plan essentially documents the services’ involvement with feed and food official controls alongside the partnerships aspirations to deliver on inspections and audits across the three authority’s in line with the PPP model of delivery.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to agree the summary document at Appendix A and the full plan at Appendix B to this report.

## **3. Implications**

**Financial:** The resources allocated to these functions are set out in the plan. All expenditure for these functions will be met from existing revenue. Local authorities receive additional grants from the Food Standards Agency for enforcing the controls relating to animal feed, but there is no cost recovery mechanism for routine programme intervention work as detailed in the plan (with the exception of those activities highlighted in the plan).

**Policy:** The plans set out the over-arching delivery model for all aspects of the PPP approach in protecting the food chain. The plan identifies with key priority areas as well as setting out how we will deliver against our statutory requirements. This may be subject to change dependant on outcomes of tactical and strategic tasking group priorities throughout the coming year.

**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 restructure 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. This Food and Feed Service Plan has been written according to the detailed headings the FSA have dictated.

**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 the PPP strategic assessment.

## **5. Executive Summary**

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, nutrition claims and other claims such as organic and gm free. In addition there are a range of measures relating to safety, standards, labelling and hygiene of animal feed.

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.

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 (Food Law Codes of Practice) 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.

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.

## **6. Conclusion**

The plan sets out how the PPP intends to deliver the statutory functions of the three authorities that operate within the PPP 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.

There is a summary document of the Food and Feed Plan at appendix C

This is one of many important areas of responsibility that falls to the Partnership insofar as its impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. Additionally, the PPP recognises that the food industry at all levels from farm to fork is important to the local economy, and in this industry confidence is everything. A strong regulatory framework is designed to provide that confidence and ensure fair competition.

The Committee is asked to consider the plan and agree the summary document at Appendix C.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Supporting Information

Appendix B – Official Feed and Food Control Service Plan 2019-20

Appendix C – Summary of Food and Feed Plan

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**PPP Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:**

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

- X 1 – Community Protection**
  - X 2 – Protecting and Improving Health**
  - X 4 – Supporting Prosperity and Economic Growth**
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