
FOOD SAFETY, FOOD STANDARDS AND ANIMAL FEED SERVICE PLAN 2021/2022

Committee considering report:	Joint Public Protection Committee
Date of Committee:	1 November 2021
Chair of Committee:	Councillor John Harrison
Date JMB agreed report:	16 August 2021
Report Author:	Sean Murphy
Forward Plan Ref:	JPPC4060

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee of the effect of the Covid pandemic on food safety, food standards and animal feed work carried out by the Service.
- 1.2 To seek approval from the Committee for the proposed recovery plan as set out at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

The Committee:

- 2.1 The Committee **NOTES** the work carried out by the teams
- 2.2 The Committee **APPROVES** the 2021/22 Work Plan for Food Hygiene and Covid (section 4 of the Food and Feed Service Plan)
- 2.3 The Committee **APPROVES** the 2021/22 Work Plan for Food Standards and Feed (Section 5 of the Food and Feed Service Plan).

3. Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	<p>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.</p> <p>Grants have also been available in relation to Covid work from Public Health teams across the three Local Authorities and a grant has been received from the Food Standards Agency to update records</p> <p>Animal feed work is grant funded by the Food Standards Agency</p>
Human Resource:	<p>The resource allocated to these functions in terms of officer time is set out in the detailed plans. There are currently a number of</p>

	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 Wokingham Exit plan.			
Legal:	<p>The IAA that set up the Partnership effectively delegates responsibility for the strategic direction of the joint service to the Joint Public Protection Committee. The responsibilities of the committee are set out in Schedule 1 to the agreement.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This plan has also had to consider the effects of Covid.</p>			
Risk Management:	<p>Risk management is overseen by the Joint Management Board (JMB).</p> <p>JMB will be kept informed of any service changes and adjustments and any consequences arising from these will be notified.</p>			
Property:	There are no direct property implications arising from this report.			
Policy:	The Plans 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. This may be subject to change dependant on outcomes of Public Health priorities, Government priorities and Tasking Group Priorities.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is	X			It is essential for premises who operate have a level playing field and as such we will ensure that we will carry out our role of ensuring compliance with legislation, so that no premises gain an advantage by non-compliance

delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?				
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	x			By its nature, this policy will have an effect on the vulnerable groups in society. By PPP targeting non-compliance in this sector we can improve quality and provision of safe food.
Environmental Impact:		x		
Health Impact:	x			By their nature work in food hygiene, Infectious Disease control and food Standards and Animal feed regulation will all directly impact health as that is their primary purpose.
ICT or Digital Services Impact:		X		
PPP Priorities :	X			The Policy is in line with the priorities of PPP
Data Impact:		x		None
Consultation and Engagement:	We engage with the businesses and residents on food related matters on a daily basis.			

4. Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) between the Councils sets out of the functions that are delegated to the Joint Public Protection 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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 (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. Failure of audits can have significant consequences for enforcement authorities. Work is still being undertaken to look at the effects of the UK leaving the EU in terms of our work activity and the legislation we enforce. One of the main changes thus far has been the arrangements for export of certain foodstuffs to European Countries.

- 4.4 It is a 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.

The Impact of Covid19

- 4.5 The Food and Feed service plans this year by necessity must take account of Covid as it has had a major effect on how we carry out our work and on the work we have carried out. Under normal circumstances this plan would focus solely on food work – from farm to fork. It is however, the Authorised Food Hygiene Officers, Trading Standards Officers and Licensing Officers that in the main, have been redirected to Covid control work in the pandemic, and are continuing to carry out this work. These officers already carry out work on the control of infectious diseases, and along with food enforcement work also enforce health and safety legislation. This put them in the obvious position in carrying out Covid Enforcement work.
- 4.6 We are now in the position of balancing the continued need for work in controlling Covid, and the need to work on the recovery plan for food hygiene and food standards and feed. This Food and Feed plan sets out that that work and sets out priorities.
- 4.7 Finally at the time of writing there is still uncertainty as rates of Covid continue to rise and we move forward into the winter. This may well affect the delivery of this plan if resources are again re-deployed. We will update the Committee on any impact or proposed changes.

5. Concluding Observations

- 5.3 This has been a challenging eighteen months for the service and many aspects have been impacted by the redeployment of resources. This is especially so for those staff involved in food safety and standards enforcement. Alongside this the lockdowns and other restrictions have added to the difficulty of delivering these functions. At all times we have sought to manage risk and support businesses and consumers and to follow Food Standards Agency guidance on prioritisation. This plan sets out a road map to recovery but there remains significant uncertainty. Regulation of the food chain and the safety of food businesses remains a very high priority for the Service.

APPENDIX A – Food Safety, Standards and Animal Feed Enforcement Plan 2021/22
