

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th July 2023
Report Subject	Food Service Plan 2023-24
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food Service Plan provides an overview of the Food Service in line with The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities April 2010. The plan sets out the aims and objectives for the Service for the forthcoming year and how these are to be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To approve the Food Service Plan 2023-24.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FOOD PLAN FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2023-24
1.01	Local Authorities throughout the UK have been directed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to take the necessary action to implement the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities. This Framework Agreement became operational from 1st April 2001. The Framework has been developed to ensure a consistent food law enforcement service throughout the country.
1.02	The Service Plan has been produced by officers of the Food Safety and Standards Team and Animal Health Team within the Planning, Environment and Economy portfolio in line with the model format contained within the Framework Agreement. It outlines the proposals for service delivery for the period 1st April 2023 to 31 st March 2024. It also contains a review of the service performance for 2022-23 with overall performance for 2022-23 detailed in Appendix 3 within the Service Plan.
1.03	The elements of the Food Service, namely Food Safety, Food Standards and Animal Feed are managed by the Team Manager – Food Safety and Food Standards, who reports into the Community and Business Protection Manager.
1.04	<p>Key achievements for 2022-23 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Category A – C Food Hygiene and Category A Food Standards premises inspections due or overdue were achieved• Significant progress was made in relation to moving at a faster pace than the minimum requirements set out in the Food Standards Agency COVID-19 Local Authority Recovery Plan: guidance and advice to local authorities for the period from 1 July 2021 to 2023/24 in relation to Category B and Category C Food Standards premises• Further focussed auditing of shellfish registration document completion was undertaken which increased the compliance levels and improved traceability through the food chain• A significant number of Feed inspections were achieved during a year that saw resource for Farm Feed inspections impacted by Avian Influenza virus• The service dealt with several Food Incidents and a Feed incident which impacted on resources• All officers within the Food Safety and Food Standards areas completed the required number of Continuing Professional Development hours required by the Food Law Code of Practice <p>Targets for 2023-24 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To complete all Category A - Category C Food Hygiene inspections• To complete all overdue and due in-year Category D Food Hygiene inspections

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To complete all Category A and Category B Food Standards inspections • To complete all Category C Food Standards inspections that are due or overdue their Category A – D Food Hygiene inspections • To inspect all Category E Food Hygiene premises that have been prioritised from information gathered in 2022-23 • To inspect all new businesses prioritised for inspection throughout the year • To deliver a regional project on the selling of American Imported Confectionary and Drinks in small retailers • To inspect all Feed businesses as per the Regional Funding model
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The cost of implementing the plan will be met within the existing Planning, Environment and Economy portfolio budget.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	The Plan follows the ‘farm to fork’ principle to ensure food is safe for consumption by all.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The Food Plan 2023-24 was reviewed by Members of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 July 2023. The Committee endorsed the Plan, and recognised the important work undertaken by the Food Safety and Standards Team.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Food Service Plan 2023 - 24

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Helen O’Loughlin, Team Manager – Food Safety and Food Standards Telephone: 01352 703390 E-mail: helen.o'loughlin@flintshre.gov.uk</p>

8.00

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Food Standards Agency Wales - is a non-ministerial government department supported by seven agencies and public bodies. It is the central competent authority for the UK in relation to European Union food legislation. In Wales, it is responsible for Food Safety and Hygiene and Food Labelling Policy. It works with local authorities to enforce Food Safety, Standards and Feed regulations.

The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities - sets out what the Food Standards Agency expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law. It was developed in consultation with local authorities, local government associations and the relevant professional bodies.

COVID-19 Local Authority Recovery Plan: guidance and advice to local authorities for the period from 1 July 2021 to 2023/24 – set out the guidance and advice to local authorities with the aim of ensuring that during the period of recovery from the impact of COVID-19, that local authority resources were targeted to where they had greatest value to provide safeguards for public health and consumer protection in relation to food. It also aimed to safeguard the credibility of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The Recovery Plan provided a framework for re-starting the delivery system in line with the relevant Food Law Code of Practice. It focused on new food establishments and high-risk or non-compliant businesses and allowed flexibility to be applied to lower risk premises.

Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) July 2021 - the Food Law Code of Practice is issued under section 40 of the Food Safety Act 1990 (the Act), regulation 24 of the Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006,1 and regulation 6 of the Official Feed and Food Controls (Wales) Regulations 2007, and sets out the execution and enforcement of that legislation by Food Authorities. It relates to Wales only. The code specifies how a local authority should risk rate a food business following its inspection which determines the frequency of food hygiene and standards inspections of that business. For Food Hygiene there are five risk bands A – E, for Food Standards there are three risk bands, A – C.

Feed Law Code of Practice (Wales) 2014 - sets out instructions and criteria to which local authorities ‘the feed authorities’ should have regard when engaged in the enforcement of animal feed law. Feed authorities must follow and implement the provisions of the Code that apply to them.