

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 21 June 2016
Report Subject	Food Service Plan for Flintshire County Council 2016-17
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning and Environment)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food Service Plan 2016-17 provides an overview of the Food Service. It sets out the aims and objectives for the forthcoming year and how these are to be achieved. The Plan also contains a review of performance of the service against the Food Service Plan 2015-16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members approve the Food Service Plan for 2016-17.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FOOD PLAN FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2016-17
1.01	Local Authorities throughout the U.K. have been directed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to take the necessary action to implement the Framework Agreement on the Local Authority Food Law Enforcement. This Framework Agreement became operational from 1st April 2001. The Framework has been developed to ensure 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 within the Planning and Environment portfolio in line with the model format contained within the Framework Agreement. It outlines the proposals for service delivery for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. It also contains a review of the Service Plan for 2015-16 with overall performance for 2015-16 detailed in Appendix 3 within the Service Plan.
1.03	The elements of the Food Service, namely Food Safety, Food Standards and Animal Feed sit under two Team Leaders. The Team Leader – Food Safety and Food Standards reports to the Public Protection Service Manager - Business. The Team Leader for Trading Standards Compliance and Animal Feed reports in to the Public Protection Service Manager - Community.
2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The cost of implementing the plan will be met within the existing Planning and Environment portfolio budget.
3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required.
4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The Plan follows the 'farm to fork' principle to ensure food is safe for consumption by all.
5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Food Service Plan 2016-17.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Helen O'Loughlin Telephone: 01352 703390 E-mail: helen.o'loughlin@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>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.</p> <p>Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) 2014 - 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.</p> <p>EU Regulation 853/2004 – is one of a set of three regulations that relate to Food Hygiene. This specific set of regulations supports the general hygiene requirements set out in EU Regulation 852/2004 and lays down specific regulations for products of animal origin.</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – is the largest Welsh Government sponsored body. It was formed in 2013 and took on the functions of the Environment Agency, Countryside Council for Wales, and Forestry Commission Wales in addition to other Welsh Government functions. It is the principal advisor to Welsh Government on issues relating to the environment and its natural resources as well as being a regulator of these areas.</p> <p>Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) – is an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs which collects, manages and interprets data on the aquatic environment, biodiversity and fisheries.</p> <p>North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NW IFCA) - the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority was established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the North Western Eastern Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010. NWIFCA is one of 10 IFCA managing and regulating English coastal waters. The statutory duties of the IFCA are set out in the Act</p> <p>Ship Sanitation Certificate - A Ship Sanitation Certificate is a document that corroborates a ship's compliance with maritime sanitation and quarantine rules specified in article 39 of the International Health</p>

Regulations (2005) issued by the World Health Organization.

Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 – this Act introduces a national food hygiene rating scheme in Wales.

North Wales Feed Law Enforcement Delivery Plan (NWFLEDP) - is the FSA Wales funded plan that was introduced in April 2015 following a review by FSA Wales in 2014 of the delivery of feed law enforcement across Wales. The plan is delivered regionally through the collaboration of the six North Wales local authorities with Wrexham CBC acting as the project lead authority to deliver against priorities that are reviewed and set annual by FSA Wales.

The Feed Law Code of Practice (Wales) 2014 (FLCP) - 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. It relates to Wales only. There is separate provision in England.

Enforcement Concordat - the Government introduced the Enforcement Concordat in 1998 in collaboration with business and local and national regulators. The aim was to promote good enforcement that brings benefits to business, enforcers and consumers. The Enforcement Concordat encourages partnership working between enforcers and businesses, and sets out the Principles of Good Enforcement which enforcers should apply in order to achieve higher levels of voluntary compliance.

Regulators' Compliance Code - this Code was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 23 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 ("the Act"). Regulators whose functions are specified by order under section 24(2) of the Act must have regard to the Code when developing policies and operational procedures that guide their regulatory activities. Regulators must equally have regard to the Code when setting standards or giving guidance which will guide the regulatory activities of other regulators.

Local Government Performance Improvement Framework – The framework under which local government collects, compares and publishes its own set of performance indicators alongside the Welsh Government's national set of performance indicators. The Performance Improvement Framework focuses on three distinct areas:

- National Strategic Indicators (NSIs): statutory indicators set by Welsh Ministers
- Public Accountability Measures (PAMs)– local authority owned measures designed to contribute to public accountability; and
- Service Improvement Data (SIDs)- meaningful datasets for use by services and their regulators to support service improvement.

Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring Systems (LAEMS) - LAEMS is a web-based system used to report local authority food law enforcement

activities to the Food Standards Agency.

Alternative Enforcement Strategy – every Competent Authority must devise an Alternative Enforcement Strategy to determine how they will conduct official controls duties at premises rated as low risk (i.e. rated Category E for food hygiene and Category C for food standards)

Better Regulation Delivery Office – the Better Regulation Delivery office oversees the Primary Authority Scheme. They are part of Regulatory Delivery which combines policy expertise and practical experience to ensure that regulation is effectively delivered in ways that reduce burdens on business, save public money and properly protect citizens and communities.

Primary Authority - the principles of Primary Authority are set out in the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (as amended), and is overseen by the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The FSA works closely with BRDO in its work to support the delivery of Primary Authority for food regulators.

The scheme gives businesses the right to form a statutory partnership with one Competent Authority, which then provides robust and reliable advice for other Competent Authorities to take into account when carrying out inspections or dealing with non-compliance.

Home Authority Principle – is the principle which operates in situations when a business does not have a Primary Authority partnership in place (e.g. if a business chooses not to enter into a partnership or is legally unable to have one), but where there remains a clear need for regulatory activity in relation to that business to be co-ordinated. For example, instances of non-compliance that could be geographically widespread, potentially leading to similar but unconnected regulatory interventions by several Competent Authorities. . It is governed by a Joint Statement of Commitment (JSoC) signed in June 2011 by BRDO, the Trading Standards Institute (TSI) and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH).

Local Government Regulation - Local Government Regulation is one of the six bodies that form the Local Government Group overseen by the Local Government Association (LGA). It provides advice and guidance to a number of regulatory services in the United Kingdom. The organisation provides guidance notes at its website and appoints some Local Authority experts as 'Lead Officers', contacts who will advise other officers.

UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) - the UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) is a national database for central storage of analytical results from feed and food samples taken by enforcement authorities (local authorities and port health authorities) as part of their official controls.

Food Alert – a “Food Alert for Action” (FAFA) is a communication from the FSA to a Competent Authority concerning a food hazard or other food incident, and a “Food Alert Update” must be read accordingly. Where the FSA requires any actions/responses by the Competent Authority, these will

be clearly specified.

Food Incident - a “food incident” is defined as any event where, based on the information available, there are concerns about actual or suspected threats to the safety or quality of food and that might require intervention to protect consumers' interests.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) - protects animal health, public health and the environment. It promotes animal health and welfare by assuring the safety, quality and efficacy of veterinary medicines. As an executive agency of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) it contributes to Defra's objectives to protect public health and meet high standards of animal welfare. Its work also helps the Food Standards Agency to protect and improve the safety of food people eat.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) - was launched on 1 October 2014. It merged the former Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) with parts of the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) responsible for plant and bee health to create a single agency responsible for animal, plant and bee health.

Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) – is a professional membership association formed in 1881. It represents trading standards professionals working in the UK and overseas in local authorities, the business and consumer sectors and in central government. It exists to promote and protect the success of a modern vibrant economy, and to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of citizens by enhancing the professionalism of its members.

National Trading Standards (NTS) - was set up in 2012 by UK Government as part of changes to the consumer protection landscape. Its role is to provide leadership, influence, support and resources to help combat consumer and business detriment nationally, regionally and locally. Bringing together trading standards representatives from England and Wales to prioritise, fund and coordinate national and regional enforcement cases.

Wales Heads of Trading Standards (WHoTS) - represents the 22 Trading Standards Services in Wales. The aim of WHoTS is to work in partnership to provide a coordinated, consistent and improved service to Welsh Businesses and Welsh Consumers. WHoTS was formed in response to the demand for continuous service improvement in Wales. The organisation acts under the auspices of the Directors of Public Protection Wales and provides a strategic leadership role for the Welsh Service.

Critical Control Points (CCPs) - animal health and welfare CCPs are set by Welsh Government and are defined as being the agreed businesses, premises or locations at which controls can be applied resulting in the reduction in risk of the introduction or spread of notifiable disease in England and Wales.

Continuing Professional Development - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the means by which professionals maintain and

enhance their knowledge and skills.

Food Information Regulations Improvement Notices (FIRINs) - is an enforcement power available to local authorities whereby they may issue an improvement notice where there has been a failure by a food business operator to comply with any of the provisions of the EU Food Information for Consumers Regulations listed in Schedule 3 to the Food Information Regulations 2013 SI.