

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th January 2022
Report Subject	Food Service Plan 2021-22 for Flintshire County Council
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning & Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and 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.

The 2021-22 Plan has been delayed due to the pressures brought about on the service by the global pandemic and also the late publication of the Recovery Plan by the Food Standards Agency

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet review and approve the Food Service Plan 2021-22.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FOOD PLAN FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2021-22
1.01	Local Authorities throughout the United Kingdom (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 2021 to 31 st March 2022. It also contains a review of the service performance for 2020-21 with overall performance for 2020-21 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 in to the Community and Business Protection Manager.
1.04	<p>Key achievements for 2020-21 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The commitment shown by all officers across the service was excellent at such a challenging, fast-evolving time• Food officers were able to provide advice to businesses affected by the Coronavirus regulations in relation to Food Hygiene and Food Standards considerations to protect public health and consumer protection, in addition to assisting local food businesses to continue to trade• Due to additional funding being made available, the service was able to use a contractor to undertake a significant proportion of food inspection work• The service moved to a non-office based system of working at very short notice• The Trading Standards Officer in the team took on all duty work as the first point of call, having to be flexible and learn new processes very quickly• Feed qualified and competent officers moved over to providing advice and enforcement duties on the Coronavirus regulations while maintaining a reduced level of Feed work for inspections and advice to businesses• Officers had to move from COVID-19 response to Food work and back again, if needed, at very short notice to pick up product-specific regulatory work or significant Food Hygiene complaints

	<p>Targets for 2021-22 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To complete all programmed inspections in line with the FSA Recovery Plan • To complete all fishing vessel inspections • To support businesses in the new requirements for Prepacked for Direct Sale foods as per the amendment to the Food Information (Wales) Regulations 2014 • To undertake focussed auditing of shellfish registration document completion to increase compliance levels and improve traceability through the food chain • To ensure all officers across the service complete the required number of Continuing Professional Development hours required by the Food and Feed Law Codes of Practice
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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	None.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Food Service Plan 2021 – 22. Political Structure

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Helen O'Loughlin, Team Manager – Food Safety and Food Standards Telephone: 01352 703390

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 – sets 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 are targeted to where they had greatest value to provide safeguards for public health and consumer protection in relation to food. It also aims to safeguard the credibility of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The Recovery Plan provides a framework for re-starting the delivery system in line with the relevant Food Law Code of Practice. It focuses on new food establishments and high-risk or non-compliant businesses and allows 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.