

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	8 th October 2024
Report Subject	Food Service Plan 2024-25 for Flintshire County Council
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Planning, Public Health and Public Protection
Report Author	Chief Officer Planning, Environment and Economy
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Food Service Plan is to provide an overview of the Food and Animal Feed 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 consider and endorse the Food Service Plan 2024-25.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FOOD PLAN FOR FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2024-25
1.01	Local authorities are required 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 within the Planning, Environment and Economy portfolio in line with the model format contained within the Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) July 2021. It outlines the proposals for service delivery for the period 1st April 2024 to 31 st March 2025. It also contains a review of the service performance for 2023-24 with overall performance for 2023-24 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 2023-24 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Category A Food Standards premises inspections due were achieved • All Category A-B Food Hygiene premises inspections due were achieved • 99% of Category C Food Hygiene inspections due were completed • The service dealt with 13 Food Incidents <p>Targets for 2024-25 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 • To complete all Category E Food Hygiene interventions by inspection or Alternative Enforcement Strategy questionnaire that are due or overdue • To complete all Category A and Category B Food Standards inspections • To complete all Category C Food Standards interventions by inspection or Alternative Enforcement Strategy questionnaire that are due or overdue • To inspect all new businesses prioritised for inspection throughout the year • To inspect Feed businesses programmed for inspection as per the Regional Funding model
1.05	The Food Safety and Food Standards service areas were subject to a targeted audit by FSA Wales in June 2024. The auditors were pleased with the progress that had been made since the pandemic. The audit report indicated that good progress has been made to address the recommendations highlighted and that a risk-based approach is being taken.

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 2024 - 25

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	<p>GLOSSARY OF TERMS These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office</p>
	<p>Food Standards Agency - 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, The Food Standards Agency in Wales 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>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.</p> <p>Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) July 2021 - the Food Law Code of Practice is issued under section 40(1) of the Food Safety Act 1990,</p>

Regulation 24(1) of The Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2006 and Regulation 6(1) of The Official Feed and Food Controls (Wales) Regulations 2009. It sets out the execution and enforcement of food legislation by Food Authorities and 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. There is a corresponding Code of Practice for Feed.

Regional Funding Model for Feed - Since 1st April 2015, the number of inspections of feed premises has been determined by FSA in Wales in the form of the 'North Wales Feed Enforcement Delivery Plan'.

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). Food hygiene ratings cannot be awarded as a result of this type of intervention. Ratings can only be awarded as a result of a food hygiene inspection of the premises.