

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

3 December 2019

TITLE:	Food Enforcement Plan
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Scalise – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	Non Specific

Appendix A – Food Enforcement Plan 2019-2020

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 It is a recommendation of the Food Standards Agency that each local authority draws up, documents and implements a food safety service plan which is approved by members.
- 1.2 This report sets out (in appendix A) the food safety service plan for 2019/2020, to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cabinet considers the food safety service plan at Appendix A and recommend the plan for approval.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has overall responsibility for the official control of food law enforcement in England. This involves co-ordinating, monitoring, setting standards and auditing local authority food law enforcement activities. The FSA recommends that all local authorities produce a food safety service plan which has been agreed by their elected members. The proposed plan attached at Appendix A has been drafted having regard to the format prescribed by the FSA.

- 3.2 It should be noted that local authorities are expected not just to merely undertake “routine hygiene inspections” but to operate a risk based enforcement system that values educational initiatives, together with formal legal enforcement tools, and ‘non inspection interventions’ (for example targeted sampling, imported food controls).
- 3.3 In carrying out this work officers may carry out enforcement of the legal provisions in order to ensure the public are not put at risk and there is compliance with the law. This action can range from the provision of advice to organisations through to formal enforcement notices and prosecutions.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council’s Corporate Priority. The provision and availability of safe food is essential for human health. The delivery of this service aims to ensure that both residents and visitors to this District can trust that the food they buy is safe to eat. The interventions taken by the team aid to reduce the incidence of food borne illness that has a significant impact on our economy.

5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 There are no alternative options as mandatory guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency recommends and requires that Local Authorities adopt a food safety enforcement plan which meets the format prescribed by the Food Standards Agency.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety – Crime and Disorder Act 1998

None arise directly from this report.

6.2 Workforce

The Food Safety team is adequately staffed.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Councils Diversity and Equality Policies.

6.4 Financial Considerations

No Financial Considerations.

6.5 Legal

As considered in the report.

6.6 Sustainability

None arise directly from this report.

6.7 Consultation

None arise directly from this report.

6.8 Risk Assessment

The main risks related to this proposal are:

- The public is at risk if the Council does not provide an adequately resourced food hygiene function.
- As with any enforcement activity there is a risk of incurring costs, some of which may not be fully recovered.
- Our work with local business, especially small and medium sized enterprises helps the local economy and business growth, thereby mitigating associated risks.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

Web Links and Background Papers

Contact details

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