

## London Borough of Enfield

### Portfolio Report

**Report of:** Sue McDaid- Head of Regulatory Services & Corporate Health & Safety

**Subject:** Approval of the Food Service Plan 2021/22

**Cabinet Member:** Cllr Guney Dogan

**Director:** Doug Wilkinson; Director of Environment and Operational Services

**Ward:** All wards

**Key Decision:** KD 5367

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### Purpose of Report

1. The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities (The Framework Agreement) sets out mandatory guidance on Local Authority Food Safety performance and service planning. It recommends that the Food Service Plan be submitted annually to Members for approval.

### Proposal(s)

2. Recommendation that the Cabinet Member agree the Food Service Plan 2021/22 (Appendix c)

### Reason for Proposal(s)

3. It is a statutory requirement to produce an annual food service plan for approval.

### Relevance to the Council Plan

4. The Consumer Protection Team directly contribute to two of the three priorities identified in, "A lifetime of opportunities for everyone – Enfield Council Plan 2020-2022."

## **Safe, healthy and confident communities**

- The service is committed to ensuring that all food stored, manufactured and/or sold within the Borough is safe and without risk to health.
- Through the work that the team deliver they empower consumers to make informed choices in relation to the food they purchase and consume through the promotion of the Food Standards Agency National Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme.

## **An economy that works for everyone**

- The Team is dedicated to working with businesses and partners to create a fair and equitable trading environment and to ensure the safe storage, manufacture, production, and sale of food. Thereby ensuring the protection of public health through the absence of food borne disease and/or food adulteration/fraud.
- The Team support businesses through a variety of education, advice, and targeted enforcement. Enforcement is applied having regard to the Council's enforcement policy. Legally compliant businesses will grow, develop, and provide economic benefits that will hopefully result in increased employment of local residents.

## **Background**

5. The Consumer Protection Team comprises three professional disciplines; Trading Standards; Licensing and Environmental Health (food safety & health and safety).
6. The Environmental Health function of the team are responsible for the delivery of several statutory requirements including, food hygiene, food standards, health and safety, infectious disease control, food sampling, water quality, animal feeding-stuffs and animal health. The work is varied and involves undertaking inspections; investigating complaints; accidents and enforcement action which includes the service of formal notices and or instigation of legal proceedings.
7. Under "normal circumstances" the team will aim to achieve 100% of the high-risk inspection programme for food hygiene categories A-C and food standards category A. However, the covid pandemic has had an impact on this delivery due to the redeployment of staff to contract tracing and covid enforcement duties, as is the case for the majority of local authority food safety teams. In recognition of the impact of the covid pandemic on Food Safety teams, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) developed a Recovery Plan to be delivered over a period from July 2021 to 2023/2024.
8. This FSA recovery plan aims to ensure that during the period of recovery from the impact of COVID-19, local authority resources are targeted where they add greatest value in providing safeguards for public health and consumer

protection in relation to food. It also aims to safeguard the credibility of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS).

9. Enfield's Food Service Plan 2021/22 will reflect the FSA Recovery Plan.
10. For note, during 2020/21 the team did not achieve 100% of inspecting Category A-C premises for food hygiene or Category A for food standards. This was as a direct result of the covid pandemic where resources were redirected to deal with Covid related work coupled with the closure of some businesses due to the Covid Regulations.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

11. The submission of the annual Food Service Plan for appropriate Member approval is a recommendation of the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement issued by the Food Standards Agency pursuant to the Food Standards Act 1999. Once approved, the plan will form the basis on which the Council delivers its statutory functions.
12. The Authority will adhere to the FSA Recovery Plan (July 2021 to 2023/24) which provides a framework for re-starting the delivery system in line with the Code of Practice for new food establishments and for higher risk and/or non-compliant establishments. The Plan provides flexibility for lower risk establishments.
13. The most significant ongoing risk to the resources required to deliver the FSA Recovery Plan and Enfield's Food Service Plan 2021/22 is the risk posed by resourcing contact tracing for Covid. Enfield, along with other Local Authorities undertake Locally Supported Contact Tracing. Resourcing will be monitored closely over the life of the plan.
14. Contact tracing is undertaken by two Environmental Health Officers, supported by four contact tracing contractors. The use of the external contractors is essential to deliver this service, especially for the weekend cover.
15. Other service pressures if realised may include unforeseen major incidents (e.g., Covid or other infectious disease outbreaks); major food alerts/incidents; major health and safety accidents/incidents. These risks are moderately likely to occur, and the work programme and staffing will be adjusted to deal with such emergencies if they arise.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

16. None

### **Public Health Implications**

17. The most significant public health implication has been the impact of the Covid pandemic as identified above.

## **Other**

18. The work of the Food Safety Team contributes significantly towards the health of Enfield's residents and visitors. The Food team inspect businesses to ensure that food is prepared safely through a managed programme of risk rated inspections and investigation of complaints that may arise. This protects public health through prevention of food poisoning incidents and outbreaks.
19. Where possible the food team also undertake activities, for example the London wide Healthier Catering Commitment, to improve the nutritional quality of food offered for sale to help address obesity and cardiovascular disease.

## **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

20. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix F.

## **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

21. The primary carbon emissions impact of the proposal is in respect of the use of private vehicles for work business. Actions in the Council's Climate Action Plan should address this over time, including supporting the transition to electric vehicles for essential users, as well as work to review the approach to staff mileage claims.

## **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

22. Audit/intervention by the Food Standards Agency.
23. Risk to public health through unregulated food businesses.

## **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

24. The main risk is maintaining adequate resources to deliver the food inspection programme especially resulting from continued need for contact tracing, Covid response to any clusters/outbreaks or implementation of the Government's COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021 (ie Plan B). The resource risk is being managed through use of contractors and will be closely monitored.

## **Financial Implications**

25. This report seeks to agree the Food Service Plan 2021/22, which sets out mandatory guidance on Local Authority Food Safety performance and service planning. These costs will be met from the existing Food Safety Team budget (£380k gross budget, and £367k net budget).

## **Legal Implications**

26. The submission of the annual Food Service Plan for appropriate Member approval is a recommendation of the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement issued by the Food Standards Agency pursuant to the Food Standards Act 1999. Once approved the plan will form the basis on which the Council carries out food safety services.

## **Workforce Implications**

27. There are no additional workforce requirements. The service is delivered by the existing staff.

## **Property Implications**

28. There are no property implications.

## **Other Implications**

29. None

## **Options Considered**

30. Not applicable. Statutory function to deliver food inspection programme.

## **Conclusions**

31. Deliver the food programme as detailed in Appendix C.

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## **Appendices**

- Appendix A-E: 2021/2022 Framework Agreement
- Appendix F: Equalities Impact Assessment

## **Background Papers**

**The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:**

None.