

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Thursday, 20 June 2024

Matter for Information

Report Title: Food Service Delivery Plan (2024/25)

Report Author(s): Jon Wells (Senior Strategic Development Manager)

Purpose of Report:	To highlight the plan for delivering the Food Service for the current year and to report progress on 2023/24.
Report Summary:	The Food Service is an important element of our Environmental Health work. This report sets out our work plan for the current year to ensure we comply with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) requirements.
Recommendation(s):	That the content of the report and appendix be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law and Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Jon Wells (Senior Strategic Development Manager) (0116) 257 2692 jon.wells@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
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Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Economy (SO3) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	Customer & Community Focused (V1) Proud of Everything We Do (V2) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Failure to Respond to a Significant Incident (CR7) Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Political Dynamics (CR3)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.

Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	 Food Standards Agency, Food Law Code of Practice (England) issued June 2023. Food Standards Agency letters to all Chief Executives dated 26 January 2024 and 8 February 2024.
Appendices:	1. Food Service Delivery Plan (2024/25)

1. Background and Overview of 2023/24

- 1.1 During 2023/24, the Council undertook all official controls and related activities to ensure food outlets were complying with food hygiene and food standards. Work was prioritised as follows:
 - a) New business triaged to assess risk and the need for intervention;
 - b) Reactive work in response to managing incidents, hazards and investigating complaints;
 - c) Carried out inspections of high risk premises;
 - d) Ongoing proactive surveillance to obtain an accurate picture of local businesses in the area; and
 - e) Checks on low risk premises to ensure contact details are up to date and businesses are still operating.
- 1.2 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) in communication this year have restated the importance to all local authorities of maintaining delivery of the food service despite current and future financial pressures. We have a duty to undertake statutory functions on food and to resource accordingly to protect public health and the interests of consumers. The team provide a vital source of guidance and expertise to many local food businesses. At the end of the year the number of businesses that attained a satisfactory rating was 92%.
- 1.3 During the last year the following has been completed:
 - a) Number of inspections 116
 - b) New businesses triaged 25
 - c) Food complaints investigated 25
 - d) Food advice and guidance visits 106
 - e) Suspected food poisoning notifications investigations 11
- 1.4 Staffing resource is provided by a Senior Environmental Health Officer (0.8FTE) who is the Food Lead for the Council and an Environmental Health Officer (0.8FTE). Emergency mutual aid is provided by Harborough District Council. Low risk premises can be checked by other members of the Environmental Health Team.
- 1.5 Overall business performance is good. Interventions were only necessary for the poorer

performers. The Senior Environmental Health Officer unfortunately suffered a wrist fracture in December 2023 which has delayed the completion of some inspections for the year.

1.6 Two FSA returns completed during the year were confirmed as satisfactory.

2. Food Service Delivery Plan (2024/25)

- 2.1 The plan for the current year is based on FSA guidance with a primary focus on high risk premises. In addition there are 20 inspections carried forward from the 2023/24 to this year following staff sickness. A food sampling programme for unpasteurised and pasteurised milk cheeses will be carried out with other local authorities in accordance with UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) requirements. There will also be a skin piercers surface swab programme introduced.
- 2.2 The team will continue to use intelligence and registration information to inform risk and regardless of compliance levels will carry out inspections of establishments in Categories A, B, C and D. The poorer performers will continue to receive specific interventions.
- 2.3 This year's plan is shown at Appendix 1. The profile of businesses has been updated along with the key areas of work.