

**REPORT TO:** LICENSING COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 15 NOVEMBER 2022

**TITLE:** FOOD SAFETY ACT 1990 SERVICE PLAN  
2022/23

**LEAD OFFICER:** MICHAEL PITT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
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**RECOMMENDED that:**

**A** The Committee approves the Food Safety Act Service Plan 2022/2023 attached as Appendix A to the report.

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Council has a statutory duty to enforce the Food Safety Act and in doing so to have regard to the Framework Agreement on local authority food law enforcement which constitutes statutory guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The Service Plan is produced in compliance with the Framework Agreement, and represents a team plan within the Council's own performance management framework

**ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

2. The Plan sets out:
- a) Food safety objectives detailing the Council's responsibilities as set out in legislation, associated statutory codes of practice and national guidelines;
  - b) The current work programme within the service; and
  - c) The Council's policy on food safety, sampling, provision of information to business, investigation of complaints and allegations of Food Poisoning, response to Food Safety Alerts and infectious disease control.
3. The current Framework Agreement reflects an ongoing emphasis by the FSA on focusing interventions on high risk situations. The Council has allocated its resources to reflect this.
4. Whilst there is discretion to increase activity above the requirements set by the Framework Agreement, the desirability of doing so is balanced by financial considerations and sensitivity to the additional burden on business which additional regulation might represent.

5. The plan as currently drafted is considered to represent the minimum practicable level of activity to fulfil the requirements of the Framework.
6. The FSA has modified the expectations of Food Safety Authorities in recognition of the burdens imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The team is on track with recovering the food service delivery in respect of programmed food inspections, inspections of new unrated businesses and food sampling work.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

### **Finance**

None specific.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance**

### **Housing**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Director of Housing**

### **Communities and Environment**

As set out in the report.

**Author: Jane Greer, Director of Communities and Environment**

### **Governance and Corporate Services**

None specific.

**Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services**

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Harlow Council Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2022/2023

## **Background Papers**

The Framework Agreement on official feed and food law controls by local authorities – <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/local-authorities>

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

FSA – Food Standards Agency