

EXECUTIVE 18th November 2021

Report Title	Food Safety and Food and Feed Standards Service Plan 2021-23
Report Author	George Candler, Executive Director for Place and Economy
Executive Member	Cllr David Brackenbury, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Food Safety Service Plan 2021-23

Appendix B – Food & Feed Standards Service Plan 2021-23

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval of the Food Safety and Food and Feed Standards Service Plans for 2021-23 and make recommendations in respect of future changes to the plans.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Under the Food Safety Act 1990 local authorities are required to publish Food and Feed Service plans.
- 2.2 This report seeks approval for the Food Safety and Food and Feed Standards Service plans and recommends that authority be delegated to the Executive Member in consultation with the Director of Place and Economy to approve future changes to the plans.

- 2.3 The plans detail how the service intend to deliver, monitor and improve food and feed services.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Approve the Food Safety and Food and Feed Standards Service Plans 2021-23;
- b) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Director of Place and Economy to approve future changes to the plans.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations:

- To accord with legislation as detailed in paragraph 2.1.
- To allow changes to the plan to be agreed without Executive approval

4. Report Background

4.1 This report presents the inaugural North Northamptonshire Food Safety and Food and Feed Service plans. The plan details how the Councils Regulatory Services intends to deliver, monitor and improve its food and feed services.

4.2 Under the Food Safety Act 1990 local authorities are required to publish Food and Feed Service plans.

4.3 Under the Local Government Act 2000, powers relating to the Food Safety Act 1990 lie with the Executive.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 The Food Standards Agency provide service planning direction to local authorities by means of Food and Feed Law codes of practice and the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls. The Food Standards Agency sought government approval early in the Covid-19 pandemic to depart from the codes of practice and have consequently directed local authorities to balance high risk food and feed matters against the Covid-19 response. They have recently issued the 'Recovery Roadmap' to address the backlog of inspections due to the pandemic which is accounted for in the plans.

5.2 The Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities states that Authorities have the flexibility to decide whether service plans should be approved at member level, at individual (Executive) member or at officer delegated level.

5.3 Given that the content of the plans is prescribed by the Food Standards Agency, members may deem it unnecessary and overly burdensome for Executive approval of future changes to the plans. Conversely, members may wish to

ensure that there is member involvement and oversight so may not deem it appropriate that officers are delegated this authority.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 The delivery of the service plans is resourced within existing budgets.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 The publication of the council's Food Safety and Food and Feed Standards service plans are prescribed by the Food Standards Agency, which is acting under powers vested in it by the Food Standards Act 1999. Approval of these plans will ensure that the council, as a food authority is meeting its fundamental obligations under the requirements of the Food Standards Agency's Official Controls Framework Agreement.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report providing that the existing resources are maintained.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 No consultation with the public and/or agencies/interested parties was necessary. Consultation was carried out with Sovereign Council food leads.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.5.1 These plans have not been considered by Scrutiny but are eligible for call-in in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules and the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution (Parts 5 and 7 respectively).

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 There is an environmental impact due to car travel to premises however this is kept to a minimum by ensuring officers carry out multiple visits particularly for long journeys.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 Delivery of the plan will ensure our businesses are compliant with the law and supported and public health is protected.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 The Food Safety Act 1990
[Food Safety Act 1990 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/17)
- 7.2 Food and Feed Law codes of practice
[Food and Feed Codes of Practice | Food Standards Agency](#)
- 7.3 Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement
[Local authorities | Food Standards Agency](#)