

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 12 May 2014

**Portfolio:** Public Protection  
**Subject:** **Food Safety Plan 2014/15**  
**Report of:** Director of Community  
**Strategy/Policy:** Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement  
**Corporate Objective:** A safe and healthy place to live and work

**Purpose:**

This report seeks approval of the Food Safety Service Plan for 2014/15.

**Executive summary:**

The Food Standards Agency came into operation on 1 April 2000 and is responsible for the directing, monitoring and auditing of local authorities' work in respect of food law enforcement. The Agency requires local authorities to produce an annual Food Safety Service Plan, in line with guidance issued by the Agency, for delivery of its Food Safety Service. The Food Standards Agency requires each authority to produce a Food Safety Service Plan that details the food enforcement service that the Council provides and which should be approved by the Council and reviewed annually. This plan was presented to the Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel on 11 March 2014. The Food Safety Plan is one of the Council's Corporate Strategies that requires annual approval by full Council.

Appendix A to this report contains the Council's proposed Food Safety Service Plan for 2014/15.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

That the Food Safety Service Plan 2014/15, as detailed in Appendix A to this report, be endorsed by the Executive and be recommended to Council for approval.

**Reason:**

The Council is required by the Food Standards Agency to produce an annual Food Safety Service Plan to demonstrate it has adequate arrangements in place to meet its statutory obligations in respect of Food Safety.

**Cost of proposals:**

The cost of undertaking the work detailed in the plan for 2014/15 has been included in the spending Plans that were approved by the Executive at its meeting held on 2 December 2013.

**Appendices: A: Food Safety Plan 2014/2015**

**Background papers: None**

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

**Date:** 12 May 2014

**Subject:** Food Safety Plan

**Briefing by:** Director of Community

**Portfolio:** Public Protection

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Food Standards Agency is responsible for directing, setting and monitoring standards and auditing local authorities' enforcement activities in order to ensure that these activities are effective and undertaken on a consistent basis and in line with current guidance. Powers enabling the Agency to monitor local authorities are contained in the Food Standards Act 1999.
2. As part of its role the Agency issued a Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement which provides guidance on how local authorities are expected to undertake their duties in respect of Food Law enforcement.
3. Fareham's current Food Service Plan is based upon this guidance and was reported to the Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel on 12 March 2013, to the Executive on 13 May 2013 and approved by Council on 20 June 2013.
4. The proposed plan for 2014/15 was reported to the Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel on 11 March 2014 where it was AGREED that the Food Safety Service Plan, as shown in Appendix A to the report, be commended to the Executive for approval.

#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO PLAN FROM 2013/14

5. The format for this plan, as prescribed by the Food Standards Agency, has remained the same since its inception in 2001. Each year the previous year's plan is updated and presented to the Panel for the following year.
6. The plan itself is largely the same as last year, but the data has been updated to reflect the actual work activity undertaken last year and the work anticipated for 2014/2015.

## **FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT**

7. In March 2013 the Food Standards Agency carried a full audit of the Food Safety Service and found it to not only be in compliance with the Agency framework Agreement but also highlighted in their report areas of best practice. Full details of the Audit were reported to the Panel's meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.
8. There were a small number of recommendations (3), these have all been actioned as required by the action plan previously submitted to the Food standards Agency.
9. The Agency Audit report has now been published on the Agency's website <http://food.gov.uk/enforcement/auditandmonitoring/auditreports/audengreport/audits2013/fareham/fareham-delivery-compliance#.Uw4VE8ZFBv8>

## **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The service detailed within the Plan can be delivered in accordance with the budget that was reported to and approved by the Executive at its meeting on 6 January 2014.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. The adoption of a Food Safety Service Plan demonstrates that the Authority is meeting its statutory responsibilities in relation to food law enforcement.

## **CORPORATE STRATEGY**

12. The Food Safety Service Plan will promote measures that support good health and reduce ill health and contribute to achieving the Council's Priority, ensuring in particular that Fareham remains a safe and healthy place to live and work.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

13. The Council has a statutory duty to provide a food safety service. If it fails in its duty, the Food Standards Agency has the power to take over the service and charge accordingly. This may also result in bad publicity for the Council.

## **CONCLUSION**

14. The Food Safety Service Plan attached to this report has been produced in accordance with the requirements of guidance issued to local authorities by the Food Standards Agency. The plan details how Fareham undertakes its food safety enforcement responsibilities.

**Reference Papers:** None