

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Individual Executive Decision**

**20 December 2023**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>TITLE:</b>            | <b>Food Safety Plan 2023/24</b>   |
| <b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b> | <b>Councillor Nigel Yates - Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Environment</b> |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>  | <b>Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health</b>                              |
| <b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>   | <b>All</b>  |

**Appendix A – Food Safety Plan**

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 It is a recommendation of the Food Standards Agency that each local authority draws up, documents and implements a Food Safety Service Plan which is approved by members.
- 1.2 This report sets out (attached at Appendix A) the Food Safety Service Plan for 2023/2024, to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That members approve and recommend the Food Safety Service Plan at Appendix A to Cabinet.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 That the Cabinet approves the Food Safety Service Plan attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 It be noted that local authorities are expected not just to merely undertake “routine hygiene inspections” but to operate a risk based enforcement system that values educational initiatives, together with formal legal enforcement tools, and ‘non inspection interventions’ (for example targeted sampling, imported food controls).
- 3.3 In carrying out this work officers may carry out enforcement of the legal provisions in order to ensure the public are not put at risk and there is

compliance with the law. This action can range from the provision of advice to organisations through to formal enforcement notices and prosecutions.

- 3.4 The proposed Plan attached at Appendix A outlines the legal duties which the Council has and the detailed Plan for meeting their duties.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority to help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work. The provision and availability of safe food is essential for human health. The delivery of this service aims to ensure that both residents and visitors to this District can trust that the food they buy is safe to eat. The interventions taken by the team aid to reduce the incidence of food borne illness that has a significant impact on our economy.

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 There are no alternative options as mandatory guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency recommends and requires that Local Authorities adopt a food safety service plan which meets the format prescribed by the Food Standards Agency.

#### 6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No issues arising from this report.

6.2 Workforce

The Food Safety team will from time to time employ contractors to ensure that the food intervention programme is delivered.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

All service actions take account of the Council's duties in relation to Equalities legislation.

6.4 Financial Considerations

None.

6.5 Legal

As considered in the report.

6.6 Climate Change

None specifically.

## 6.7 Consultation

No consultation is required.

## 6.8 Risk Assessment

The main risks related to the Plan are:

- The public is at risk if the Council does not provide an adequately resourced food hygiene function.
- As with any enforcement activity there is a risk of incurring costs, some of which may not be fully recovered.
- Our work with local business, especially small and medium sized enterprises helps the local economy and business grow, thereby mitigating associated risks.

Mr Mark Trillo

**Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)**

### **Web Links and Background Papers**

### **Contact details**

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