

Report on	Food Service Plan for 2023/2024
Date of Meeting	15 th June 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on Environmental Health's Food Service Plan 2023/2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires each competent authority to have an up-to-date, documented Food Service Plan, which is a requirement of their audit processes, and that it is readily available to food business operators (FBOs) and consumers. The plan must be subject to regular review and clearly state the period of time during which the plan has effect.
2.2	The plan must cover all areas of food law that the competent authority has a duty to enforce and set out how it intends to deliver official controls within its area.
2.3	The FSA requires Competent Authority to have regard to any advice issued by FSA in Northern Ireland when drafting the Food Service Plan.
2.4	Last year's Food Service Plan accounted for the FSA's Local Authority Recovery Plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The recovery plan was implemented during the period from 1 st July 2021 to 31 st March 2023.
2.5	From 1 st April 2023, the FSA's advised that Local Authorities should be planning to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out due interventions for establishments that are back in the routine programme of interventions in accordance with the frequencies set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code). • Work towards realigning with the provisions set out in the Code, from 1 April 2023, using the full range of flexibilities already offered by the Code. • Continue to exercise a risk-based approach to the requirements set out in the Code based on available resource.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Food Standards Agency's 'Framework Agreement on Local Authority Law Enforcement' sets out what the FSA expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law, based on the existing statutory Codes of Practice.
3.2	Therefore, the Environmental Health Service's Food Service Plan for 2023/2024 has been developed in order to meet the requirements outlined in the Framework Agreement. The Plan covers in detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aims and objectives of the food service, • The profile of the council, including the organisational structure and the scope of the service provided, • The ways in which the service will be delivered and the targets for its delivery, • The human and financial resources involved in providing the service, • The ways in which the quality of the service will be monitored and improved upon, • The ways in which the service will be reviewed and improved upon.
3.3	The Food Service Plan also includes a review of the delivery of the food service during the period April 2022 – March 2023.
3.4	The FSA provides core grant funding to the Environmental Health Service which is ring-fenced for food safety and standards delivery functions. The grant for 2023/2024 has been increased in recognition of not only the key work District Councils continue to undertake to deliver food official controls, but also the wider participation and valuable contribution made by District Council representatives to FSA working groups, to the programmes of change led by the FSA, and to wider collaborative programmes concerning dietary health.
3.5	Therefore, the Food Service Plan 2023-2024 includes a commitment to our ongoing engagement with the FSA to deliver FSA priorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of food official controls (including District Council legal obligations to implement food sampling, including any new EU sampling requirements), • Realignment with the Food Law Code of Practice, as soon as possible, including documented and approved service plans, • Implementation of the new Food Standards Delivery Model, • Adoption and implementation of the Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 (dependent on timing and a functioning NI Executive).
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As detailed in Food Service Plan. Annual incoming grant contribution of £155,179.16 from the FSA for 2023/2024 which reflects an increase from 2022/2023 of £16,160.62. Grant amount may vary on an annual basis and subject to change. Considered as part of MUDC annual rates estimates process – additional increase in grant will be utilised via the recruitment of an additional temporary District Environmental Health Officer until 31 st March 2024 as per section 4.1 of the plan.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Food Service Plan April 2023– March 2024 for Mid Ulster District Council's Environmental Health Department.