

FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2019/20

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To allow the scrutiny committee to review the 2019-20 food service plan and suggest any comments for inclusion in future plans.

2 Recommendations

That members:

- 2.1 Note the contents and approve the 2019-20 Food Service Plan
- 2.2 Make any relevant comments or provide comments that should be considered by the Buckinghamshire Council for inclusion in future Food Service Plans.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Under European food law the Food Standards Agency (FSA) are deemed to be the competent authority. To ensure these powers are exercised consistently across the country by local authorities the FSA has developed a framework agreement part of which includes the production by each local authority of a food service plan.
- 3.2 Service plans are seen as an important part of the process to ensure that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.
- 3.3 The details to be contained in the plan are specified by the FSA. Plans must contain the following information.
- Service Aims and Objectives
 - Background
 - Service Delivery
 - Resources
 - Quality Assessment
 - Review
- 3.4 The Aylesbury Vale Food Service Plan for 2019-20 is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The key features of the plan are:
- There are 1690 registered food businesses in Aylesbury Vale. This is a small decrease from 2018/2019 (when the total number was 1798, this is partially due to the work undertaken in checking and removing closed businesses from our database)
 - Premises are given a risk rating, A to E. Resources are targeted to ensure higher risk premises (A, B, Non-compliant C and Unrated) are inspected in accordance with the FSA Code of Practice.
 - The number of premises which are deemed to be “broadly compliant” with the law is 97.81%.
 - In 2018/19 in total we achieved 92.9% of our programmed interventions. This represents an improvement from the rate achieved in 2017/18 (87%). 100% of premises inspections rated A- non compliant C were completed.
 - The number of unrated inspections from the previous year is 37.

The plan identifies areas of improvement or exploration to improve efficiency and to ensure we are offering the best service to our customers.

These include:

- Monitor the Brexit process and implement advice/guidance from central government which has an impact on food businesses. It is believed that there will be changes around the Export Health Certificates and we will change processes as necessary. Further detail is contained in section 3.5 of the plan.
- Prepare for the formation of the Buckinghamshire Council and work with other existing Buckinghamshire councils to ensure that the food service can be delivered from 1 April 2020.
- Continue to review the premises database with a focus on category E rated premises to ensure that where appropriate, these premises are classified as outside the programme. This will improve the database accuracy and ensure resources are targeted to those requiring intervention and based on risk to public health.
- Enforcement Officers will be encouraged to undertake more targeted partial inspections for some category C premises and for the majority of D rated premises such as pubs and restaurants with broadly compliant hygiene scores. We believe that there are many advantages of an inspection compared with sending a questionnaire; businesses also tell us they prefer an inspection as an opportunity to speak to a food safety officer. A partial inspection will also help reduce the inspection time meaning we can focus more time and resource on those businesses that are non compliant.
- Enforcement Officers are to target D and E Rated premises who did not return questionnaires last year. If necessary inspections will be carried out. This work will improve the accuracy of our database.
- Continue to promote our 'New Food Business Advice Service'
- Continue to keep abreast of current issues, (particularly Regulating our Future and Brexit) and cascade information to businesses as required.
- Ensure that we participate in the PHE sampling programmes for 2019/20 and that sampling is undertaken where appropriate to enhance our food safety interventions (i.e. to assist with educating food business operators and to assist in the evaluation of food hygiene procedures)

4 Resource implications

- 4.1 The plan sets out the staff and financial resources required to deliver the programme of food inspections required to meet FSA targets.

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Background Documents

None