

Public Report
Delegated Officer Decision

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 23 July 2026

Report Title

Food and Feed Service Plan 2026/27

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Service Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sam Barstow, Service Director, Community Safety and Streetscene

Report Author(s)

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Report Summary

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires local authorities to maintain an up-to-date Food and Feed Service Plan, available to businesses and the public, and subject to regular review.

The Food and Feed Service Plan for 2026/27 has been prepared in accordance with the FSA Framework Agreement and Service Planning Guidance. It sets out the Council's priorities, performance targets, and planned activity for delivering official food and feed controls.

Performance is reported nationally to the FSA via statutory annual and 6-monthly statistical returns.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 Food and Feed Service Plan 2026/27
- Appendix 2 Food and Feed Sampling Policy 2026/27
- Appendix 3 Equalities Screening Assessment
- Appendix 4 Carbon and Climate Change Assessment

Background Papers

- Food Safety Act 1990
- Food Law Code of Practice (England)
- Feed Law Code of Practice (England) April 2018
- Localism Act 2011
- Regulators' Code 2014
- Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Law Controls, April 2010

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Food and Feed Service Plan 2026/27

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council, as a Competent Authority, is required by the Food Standards Agency to produce a documented and up to date Food and Feed Service Plan. In addition, the Plan must be available to food business operators and consumers, and the Council should review the Plan regularly.
- 1.2 The Council's Food and Feed Service Plan follows the format of the Service Planning Guidance contained within the Food Standards Agency's Framework Agreement.
- 1.3 The Food and Feed Service Plan:
 - Explains the purpose of the Food and Feed function.
 - Links to the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement.
 - Matches current resources against existing service level.
 - Sets targets against which the performance of the service can be measured.
 - Provides a performance management framework to ensure continuous improvement.
- 1.4 The Food Standards Agency continues to direct Councils to follow their Covid recovery plan to assist in prioritisation until a new food hygiene intervention rating scheme is in place. The Council has achieved all targets so far contained within the FSA's recovery plan.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Food and Feed Law: Codes of Practice (England) are statutory Codes of Practice that require Competent Authorities to maintain up-to-date, documented Food and Feed Service Plans. These plans must be readily accessible to food and feed business operators and consumers, align with paragraph 6 of the Regulator's Code, and be consistent with the Council's General Enforcement Policy.
- 2.2 The Plan must cover all areas of food and feed law for which the Council has enforcement responsibility and clearly set out how 'Official Controls' will be delivered across the borough. It must also address responsibilities in relation to imported food, including the control arrangements in place. In addition, the Plan should outline the Council's approach to enforcement, including its Alternative Enforcement Strategy for premises classified as low risk under the Food Establishment Intervention Rating Scheme.

- 2.3 The Food and Feed Service Plan for 2026/27, attached at Appendix 1, provides detail of performance against the targets set. The outcome for the year end is that 100% for Category A, 100% for Category B, and 100% for Category C inspections are carried out.
- 2.4 Council staff and resources are currently being targeted at Category A, B and non-compliant C premises.
- 2.5 The Food and Feed Service Plan also describes arrangements for:
- Sampling which contributes to UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) or Food Standards Agency (FSA) initiatives, further to which a Food and Feed Sampling Policy is attached at Appendix 2 ;
 - Complaints received relating to food and feed;
 - Promotional activity and advice to business;
 - Control and investigations of outbreaks of infectious disease;
 - Food Safety Alerts, incidents and food fraud
 - The development and implementation of the new food standards delivery model and the revised food hygiene intervention rating scheme.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council is obliged by statute to have a Food and Feed Service Plan and therefore no alternatives have been considered.
- 3.2 The recommendation is to note the Food and Feed Service Plan 2026/27.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 The plan has been drafted with due regard to the FSA guidance and has been consulted on with relevant officers within Regulation and Enforcement alongside the relevant Cabinet Member.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The plan is already in effect forming the basis of service delivery and will continue to do so throughout the current financial year. The Regulation and Enforcement management team will be responsible for ensuring delivery of the plan.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 The Food and Feed Service Plan 2026/27 will be delivered within the approved revenue budget for this Service.

- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 Section 40 of the Food Safety Act 1990 provides the Secretary of State the power to issue Codes of Practice in relation to the execution and enforcement of the 1990 Act. Any Competent Authority that does not have regard to the Code of Practice may find their decisions or actions successfully challenged. In addition, the Food Standards Agency, can give a Competent Authority a direction requiring them to carry out specified steps to comply with the Code of Practice, such specified steps are enforceable against a Competent Authority. There is a corresponding Code of Practice for Feed Law.
- 7.2 Under the Codes of Practice, each Competent Authority must have an up-to-date, documented Food and Feed Service Plans for food and feed business operators and consumers. The Plan must be subject to regular review and clearly state the period for which it has effect. The Plan should reflect the requirements set out in the relevant Regulators' Code and must cover all areas that the Competent Authority has a duty to enforce and set out how the Authority intends to deliver official controls within its area. Any failure by the Council to implement the Plans may result in the Food Standards Agency making a direction for compliance, which would be done in consultation with the Secretary of State.
- 7.3 Section 42 of the Food Safety Act 1990 provides default powers. Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that a Competent Authority has failed to discharge a duty imposed upon it by the Food Safety Act 1990 and the authority's failure affects the general interests of consumers of food, he may order another competent authority or the Food Standards Agency to discharge that duty in place of the Authority in default. The substitute Authority will also be permitted to recover any expenses reasonably incurred from the Authority in default.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 9.2 However, effective food safety regulation plays a critical role in protecting vulnerable groups, including children, older people, and individuals with compromised immune systems, who are at greater risk of foodborne illness. Robust inspection, compliance, and enforcement activity help to minimise these risks and support public health outcomes across the borough.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed (Appendix 3) and identified no significant adverse impacts.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 An assessment has been completed (Appendix 4). No significant impacts on CO2 emissions or climate change have been identified.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. There are no implications for partners

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Failure to have due regard to the provisions of the Code of Practice, presents a risk of decisions or actions being successfully challenged, and evidence gathered during a criminal investigation being ruled inadmissible by the Court.
- 13.2 Failure to comply with the Codes of Practice may result in the Food Standards Agency, following consultation with the Secretary of State, directing the Council to take specified actions to achieve compliance.

14. Accountable Officers

Lewis Coates, Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement
Donna Williams Principal Food Environmental Health Officer
Craig Cornwall Community Protection and Environmental Health Manager-
Central

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

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