

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

**SUBJECT:**  
**FOOD AND FEED SERVICE DELIVERY 2020-2021**

**Purpose:**

To propose a plan for food and feed advisory/official control work based on Food Standards Agency (FSA) guidance up to the 31 March 2021.

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

1. The proposals for the advisory/official controls at food and feed businesses up to 31 March 2021 be approved.

**Reasons:**

As a result of COVID-19, officers from the Food Safety and Health section, who would ordinarily be implementing the food and feed official controls (inspections), have, over the last six months been involved in implementing the COVID relevant legislation. They have also been deployed/seconded into the Infection Prevention and Control Team.

The Food, Safety and Health team, however, are now in a position where advisory/official controls for food and feed can be reinstated and implemented. The FSA has recently provided guidance for the delivery of official food controls in the context of the ongoing response to the COVID -19 pandemic. The following proposals demonstrate how Carmarthenshire will implement the guidance to support food businesses and protect consumers.

Food and Feed safety is of paramount importance to the residents of Carmarthenshire. The work is imperative to prevent food poisonings, poor food and feed standards, labelling/allergy safety and food fraud.

Looking forward, work carried out by the Environmental Health section will also underpin, and support, the food and feed businesses during the introduction of Brexit and challenges that this will bring to the economy for the County.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted : NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES – 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Phillip Hughes (Public Protection Portfolio Holder)

Directorate: Communities	Designations	Tel Nos and Email addresses
Name of Head of Service: Jonathan Morgan	Head of Safer Homes and Communities	<a href="mailto:JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> 01267 228960
Report Author: Sue Watts	Environmental Protection Manager	<a href="mailto:SeWatts@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">SeWatts@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> 01267 228929

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**DATE: 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021**

**FOOD AND FEED SERVICE DELIVERY 2020-2021**

**The Purpose**

To propose a plan for food and feed advisory/official control work based on Food Standards Agency (FSA) guidance up to the 31 March 2021.

**The Context**

The Food, Safety and Health section is responsible for delivering advisory/official controls (inspections) at food and feed businesses within Carmarthenshire. Since March 2020, officers from the team have been active in COVID-19 related response which has had an obvious impact on our ability to carry out food inspections. That said, the offices have achieved the following food/feed responses:

- Advisory calls to new 'higher risk' businesses particularly in regards to milk/meat producers/sales. This includes advisory visits to the kitchens of the field hospitals.
- Granting of approval of a dairy business in order that they can trade
- Completed a PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) audit. This is required to protect and promote regional food products (similar to a trade mark).
- Investigation of feed and food incidents brought to our attention by the Food Standards Agency. Examples include pesticides in sesame ingredient of food from Belgium, possibility of unauthorised additive to feed ingredients brought into the country, issue of composition not meeting required standards of feed being exported.

The FSA has recognised the challenging circumstances that COVID-19 has created and the critical role that Environmental Health teams are playing in the wider public health response required to control the pandemic. The FSA is also conscious of the statutory responsibilities that, together with LAs, have to protect public health through delivery of official food controls.

The Food, Safety and Health team are now in a position where advisory/official controls for food and feed can be reinstated and implemented. The FSA has recently provided guidance for the delivery of official food controls. The following proposals demonstrate how Carmarthenshire will implement the guidance to support food businesses and protect consumers.

## **Food responsibilities**

The FSA has agreed to the temporary deviation from the Food Law Code of Practice and accordingly, guidelines have been produced prioritising official controls (inspections) to March 2021. The guidance also contains advice on how other food hygiene and food standards activities should be prioritised.

The most recent guidance was produced on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, with a further review in January 2021. Annex 1 outlines the guidance issued by the FSA and a proposal of how the Food, Safety and Health section will deliver this.

## **Feed responsibilities**

The FSA did not seek Ministerial agreement to extend the temporary deviation from the Feed Law Code of Practice beyond 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. This being the case, there is an expectation that official controls will be undertaken by Local Authorities. The FSA (Wales), however, has accepted that the committed programme at the beginning of the year will not be achieved as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.

It has been agreed that authorities will attempt to produce a more manageable target based programme of inspections based on resources. Annex 2 outlines the proposed targets to be delivered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## **Conclusion**

Food and Feed safety is of paramount importance to the citizens of Carmarthenshire. The work is imperative to prevent food poisonings, poor food and feed standards, labelling/allergy safety and food fraud. Looking forward, work carried out by the Environmental Health Section will also underpin and support the food and feed businesses during the introduction of Brexit and challenges that this will bring to the economy for the County.

## **Recommendation**

- 1. The proposals for the official controls for food and feed businesses outlined in Annex 1 and 2 be approved pending current levels of resource.**

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?**

**NO – Attached – Annex 1 & 2**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

**Signed: Jonathan Morgan**

**Head of Homes and Safer Communities**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### 5. Risk Management Issues

The report to reinstate the inspections for food and feed businesses including Risk Assessments and Safe Working Practices have been approved by Gold.

Failure to re-instate food and feed inspections will result in us not adhering to new FSA guidelines

### 6. Staffing Implications

The Food, Safety and Health team have now secured additional resources to carry out the food and feed inspections but will still be influenced by any potential escalating demand in COVID cases in the County to year end.

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jonathan Morgan

Head of Homes and Safer Communities

1. Scrutiny Committee - NA
2. Local Member(s) - NA
3. Community / Town Council - NA
4. Relevant Partners - NA
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - NA

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:

YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE