

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **2024 - 2025 Statutory Intervention Plan for the Food Control and Health & Safety services**

**REPORT OF:**               **Anneliese Hutchinson, Interim Strategic Director, Economy Innovation and Growth**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The report asks Cabinet to consider and endorse the Intervention Plan for the Food Control and Health & Safety services for 2024 - 2025.

### **Background**

2. It is a statutory requirement that the Intervention Plans for these services are considered and approved at an appropriate level on an annual basis.
3. The information required in the Health and Safety Service Intervention Plan is directed by the 'Section 18 Standard on Enforcement' of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
4. The information required in the Food Control Service Intervention Plan is directed by the requirements of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Framework Agreement on Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities.

### **Proposal**

5. It is proposed that the Intervention Plan for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 be agreed. A summary of the Plan is attached at Appendix 2. Full details of the Plan can be viewed online within the agenda folder for this meeting and hard copies are available in the Members' Room.

### **Recommendations**

6. It is recommended that Cabinet agree the Intervention Plan for 2024 – 2025.

For the following reason:

To consider that effective and appropriate enforcement strategies and sources are allocated to deliver the mandatory duties placed on the council as the enforcing authority for the regulation of businesses.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Context

1. The work of both services is directly linked to the Thrive Agenda in particular through putting people and families at the heart of everything we do, tackling inequalities, investing in our economy and working together to fight for a better future for Gateshead.

### Background

3. Gateshead Council is an Enforcing Authority under both food safety and health & safety law and has mandatory, statutory responsibilities to enforce the relevant legislation.
4. Climate Change, Compliance, Planning and Transport considers the Government's Better Regulation agenda when planning and delivering its services

### Consultation

5. The Cabinet Members for Health & Wellbeing have been consulted.

### Alternative Options

6. The Plan is based on delivery of the minimum interventions required to meet the statutory responsibilities placed on the Council using the resources currently allocated to the services.
7. Failure to deliver the minimum interventions is not an option.
8. Delivery of a more comprehensive Intervention Plan would require additional resources.

### Implications of Recommended Option

10. **Resources**
  - a. **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources and Digital, confirms that there are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
  - b. **Human Resources Implications** - There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.
  - c. **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising directly from this report
11. **Risk Management Implications** – Failure to deliver statutory responsibilities may result in government intervention.
12. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment of these plans has indicated a neutral impact.

13. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.
14. **Health Implications** - These statutory services have an important role in preventing ill health and harm and reducing health inequalities.
  - The food service protects public health through the control of the spread of acute and chronic illness and by ensuring a safe, healthy and sustainable food chain.
  - Enforcement of health and safety aims to prevent harm and ill health in the workplace. Tackling injuries and ill health at work benefits workers, businesses and society as a whole.
15. **Economic Development Implications** - In relation to the objective of 'supporting businesses, creating the conditions for business to prosper and provide good jobs for all, now and into the future' the plan helps to demonstrate a proportionate inspection regime and an approach to training and advice for firms which helps to foster a supportive and fair business environment through stable and predictable regulation.
16. **Sustainability Implications** – There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.
17. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.
18. **Area and Ward Implications** - This report affects all wards equally

### **Background material**

- Section 18 'Standard on Enforcement', Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
- Framework Agreement on Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities, Food Standards Agency

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Environmental Health Team which undertakes the Health and Safety Service and Food Safety Service of the Council responds to over 1400 accidents, food poisonings and complaints and undertakes over 1800 interventions in a wide range of premises in order to safeguard the public and build more prosperous businesses.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) as part of its national food safety framework agreement requires all Local Authorities to prepare a service plan which sets out how the official controls will be delivered.

The Health and Safety Code (The Code) requires Local Authorities to be transparent in their enforcement role. In order to achieve this we need to publish our intervention plan and report on our performance against that plan.

This plan sets out the overall aims of the Environmental Health Team and how the Council will deliver the food safety and health and safety enforcement functions in the financial year 2024/2025.

The plan describes the profile of businesses in the borough and the way in which this determines how the intervention programmes are planned.

It also describes the nature of service requests received and how they are managed and responded to within the service.

The resources allocated to deliver the service are set out for 2024/2025 and we consider we are adequately resourced, providing there are no major incidents or issues.

The plan includes a review of the work of the Environmental Health Team in 2023/2024 and the team achieved 100% of higher risk food hygiene interventions and 97% of medium risk food hygiene interventions.