

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Planning, Housing & Health

Head of Service: Jeremy Mann

Lead Officer: Pamela Charles

Date of Assessment: 06/12/2022

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Pamela Charles

Email address: pam.charles@northdevon.gov.uk

Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed: Food Safety Service Plan 2023 – 2024

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: This Service Plan sets out how North Devon Council (NDC) intends to provide an effective food safety service that meets the requirements of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Framework Agreement. It covers the functions carried out by authorised officers of the Food, Health & Safety Team under the provisions of the Food Safety Act 1990, the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 and relevant regulations made thereunder. This plan's key focus is to demonstrate how the Council will fulfil its statutory obligations and duties in relation to food safety during the period of recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: 01/04/2023

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Strategy & Resources Committee consider and approve the Food Safety Service Plan for implementation	There is no current Food Safety Service Plan in place, due to disruption to the service during the Covid-19 pandemic,	That the Food Safety Service plan be approved and implemented from 01/04/2023	The Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires all Food Authorities to have a Food Safety Service Plan to ensure that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally.

Impact:

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics)

Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Positive impact as there is currently no Food Safety Service plan, due to the Covid-19 pandemic disruption. Implementation of the Plan will meet the requirements of the Food Standards Agency, who require such a plan to be in place. The plan will ensure that the Food, Health and Safety Team meet their requirements with regards to their duties under the Food Safety Act 1990 and the associated regulations, and will ensure a level playing field for all registered food businesses in North Devon

Consideration of Alternatives:

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc.):

There are no alternatives, the Food Standards Agency require all local authorities to write and implement a Food Safety Service Plan and North Devon Council need to comply with this requirement

Consultation:

Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

Consultation checklist attached

Funding Considerations:

Not Applicable

Date approved by Head of Service: 16/01/2023

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

December 2023

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

The Lead Officer will ensure that the Service Plan is implemented and the Food Standards Agency will monitor by way of the Lead Officer submitting quarterly and annual returns on the implementation of the Service Plan,

Date approved by Head of Service: 16/01/2023

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC Website: 01/02/2023