

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Port Health & Environmental Services Committee (For Decision)	Dated: 02/06/2025
Health & Wellbeing Board (For Information)	11/07/2025
Subject: Port Health Food Safety Enforcement Plan and Port Health Service Plan 2025/26	Public For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing Excellent Services • Diverse Engaged Communities
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment
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Summary

This report seeks approval for the Port Health Service Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 1).

National Codes of Practice allow local authorities flexibility over how to deliver their regulatory functions for food hygiene and standards. Service plans set out how and at what level regulatory controls will be provided, in accordance with those Codes of Practice.

Our service plan sets out how and at what level regulatory controls will be provided and Committee approval of the plan is expected by the Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee are asked to:

- Approve the Port Health Service Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 1).
- Note the Port Health Service Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 2).

Members of the Health & Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Note both the Port Health Service Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 1) and Port Health Service Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 2).

Main Report

Background

1. As an enforcement authority the London Port Health Authority (LPHA) has obligations for the delivery of certain food and standards controls.
2. In the case of the LPHA, Articles 3 and 4 of The London Port Health Authority Order 2024 and the associated Schedules, make provision as to the jurisdiction and the functions that the port health authority is to exercise as regards the London port health district, which includes food safety and standards controls within ports falling under its jurisdiction, and the River Thames.
3. To ensure local transparency and accountability and to show our contribution to the authority's corporate plan the FSA advise that service plans and performance reviews should be approved at the relevant level established for the authority. Our service plans are presented to these Committees annually.

Current Position

Port Health Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2025/26

4. LPHA has 160 food premises registered. 141 are within the Ports/River area and 19 in the London Gateway Logistics Park (inspected under a S.101 agreement with Thurrock Council). These fall within the full range of FSA categories, requiring inspection from every 6 months to 3 years.
5. In 2024/25, 60 food hygiene inspections were carried out during the period. Only 1 was not broadly compliant (falling below the FSA's expected standard). 10 food standards inspections were also carried out.
6. The detailed programme of work for the Port Health Service are outlined in the Port Health Service Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 1).

Port Health Service Plan 2025/26

7. The Port Health Service has focused its attention on undertaking border controls on food and feed under the new Border Target Operating Model (BTOM); a high-level plan that outlines the new regime for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks on all food and feed entering the UK from both the European Union (EU) and the Rest of the World (RoW).
8. The plan outlines a comprehensive approach to managing and monitoring public, animal and environmental health at the ports and surrounding areas. The plan details the responsibilities and activities of the Port Health Service, which includes controlling food and feed imports, food standards, food safety, water quality, infectious disease control, civil contingencies, ship sanitation,

environmental protection, and shellfish control. By implementing these measures, the Service aims to protect and enhance public health, prevent the spread of diseases, and ensure the quality and safety of food and water supplies.

9. The Port Health Service is responsible for compliance checks for all food and feed imports from the EU and the RoW, ensuring that these imports meet the necessary standards and regulations. This is particularly important as the ports are the first point of entry into the UK, and any issues with imported food and feed can have significant implications for the biosecurity of the UK.
10. Moreover, the plan highlights the Service's commitment to delivering a high-quality, accessible, and responsive service. It details how the service has reacted to the new BTOM by extending operating hours, restructuring into multidisciplinary teams, and investing in professional and personal development, the Service aims to be the fastest processor of imported food and feed consignments in the UK while maintaining robust biosecurity measures at the border. This not only ensures the efficient and effective delivery of services but also supports the growth and development of the ports, contributing to the economic prosperity of the region.
11. The detailed program of work for the Port Health Service are outlined in the Port Health Service Plan 2025/26 (Appendix 2).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. Strategic Implications - The Service Plans link to a number of the objectives in the City Corporation's revised Corporate Plan 2024-29:
 - Providing Excellent Services
 - Dynamic Economic Growth
13. Financial implications - None. The Service Plans will be met from within existing local risk budgets.
14. Resource implications - None.
15. Legal implications - Failure to plan and implement a program of official food controls could result in sanctions by the FSA, in extremis taking over the operational control of the LPHA's food safety and standards, enforcing authority functions.
16. Risk implications - Potential reputational risk to the LPHA and thus the City Corporation, if the above happens.
17. Equalities implications – None following a test of relevance.
18. Climate implications - None.
19. Security implications - None

Conclusions

20. The LPHA will continue to meet its obligations to the FSA in respect of food safety and standards within its jurisdiction.
21. The Port Health Service Plan outlines a program of work objectives and how these will be delivered. LPHA will continue to ensure their work is risk-based in line with the BTOM, targeting non-compliance whilst facilitating the smooth passage of goods through our ports for compliant businesses to ensure a level playing field of regulation.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Port Health Food Enforcement Plan 2025/26
- Appendix 2 – Port Health Service Plan 2025/26

Background Papers

None

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