

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 29 JUNE 2022**

Councillors Westerby, Beavis, Mrs Cully, Johnston, Miss Kelly, Maynard, Mrs Morgan and Chegwyn

PART II

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kelly be elected as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022-23.

6. FOOD SAFETY SERVICE RECOVERY PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Environmental Health advising that the Food Standards Agency has produced COVID-19 Local Authority Recovery guidance and advice. This requires local authorities to ensure that they have documented and approved recovery service plans in place that set out how they intend to deliver and resource their planned interventions and other activities during the recovery period, up to 2023/24. The purpose of this report was to set out the Recovery plan for Gosport's Food Hygiene Inspection programme.

The Board was advised that the FSA had introduced the need for a recovery plan following the Covid 19 pandemic. The inspections had stopped during the lock downs and even on reopening premises such as care homes and schools had been unable to have inspectors inside.

The Board was advised that the team was expected to be on track with its milestones and that there was some funding set aside, should it be needed to boost inspection rates. The funding was as a result of grants received for additional work undertaken during the pandemic.

It was felt that the team were in a good place to be able to complete the required inspections.

Members thanked the teams involved in the inspections and welcomed that they would be on target and were catching up fast with overdue inspections.

A Members asked how the ratings of premises were advertised. The Board was advised that there were advertised centrally on the FSA's website and that a link was on the Gosport Borough Council website to the ratings. Premises were not required by law to advertise their rating.

It was also advised that food delivery services such as Just Eat were also utilising FSA ratings on their website and apps.

The Board was advised that some vendors were excluded or exempt from having their details published, this included military bases and childminders in private dwellings.

Community & Environment Board
29 June 2022

Other premises were exempt from being inspected as they did not have food service as their primary business, this included shops that sold seasonal goods.

Members reiterated their thanks to the team for their hard work.

The Board noted that there was a large increase in food takeaway and delivery services as a result of the pandemic and questioned the measures in place to ensure that these newer premises were working at an appropriate standard.

The Board was advised that any complaints made against such companies would be considered and investigated, however the FSA ratings covered the food as prepared. The inspections considered whether the food had been cooked to an appropriate temperature and how it had been prepared. It could not control the temperature at which the food arrived at but that officers would discuss all elements of the food safety with the owners.

The Board also questioned the process in schools with regard to children's lunchboxes. The Head of Environmental Health advised that they would provide an update to Members on the specifics of schools.

The Board was advised that the external part of a premises could not be considered as part of the inspection but the inspection could take into account things that could present an attraction to vermin.

A Member sought clarification as to what the Wessex Shopping Partnership was and it was clarified that it was a random sampling programme.

The Board also questioned the testing that took place on imported food from third countries, which were those outside the EU. It was advised that English Law was evolving, but was behind with changes as a result of Brexit.

Members sought clarification as to how long a premises held their ratings if they weren't particularly high. The Board was advised that when a premises was inspected and received a low rating then it could appeal within 21 days, if an appeal was lodged there would be a reinspection and the rating could be amended or remain. If an appeal wasn't lodged then a premises could reapply for inspection after 3 months, with a reinspection required after 6.

The initial rating would remain in place until the follow up inspection, however, it would be anticipated that any serious issues would be rectified within days.

The cycles for premises inspections varied depending on the level of rating.

Members sought further clarification on the exemptions of the Range and the ratings for such premises as the trash café and other food banks.

A Member questioned the process for mobile catering vans and it was advised that they were licensed and inspected by the authority which the van resided in overnight.

Any unit attending such events as festivals would be subject to inspection as part of the SAG process, whilst this would not be a full inspection, it would be sufficient enough to ensure it was suitable for use at the event.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the Food Safety Service Recovery Plan as detailed at Appendix A

7. CLIMATE IMPACT OF HAMPSHIRE PENSION FUND INVESTMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Policy and Community Safety and it summarises the most recent available information on the level of Hampshire Pension Fund investments in fossil fuels and the overall carbon footprint of Hampshire Pension Fund investments, as requested by Climate Change Board members on 10th March 2022. It also identifies a possible mechanism by which the Council can influence future investments, should Members wish to do so.

Members welcomed that steps were being taken to ensure that investments were suitable.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

1. Reviews and notes the information in section 2.
2. Delegates authority to the Head of Finance and the Climate Change Officer to work with the Chairperson of the Community and Environment Board, to agree and submit a response to the current consultation on the Hampshire Pension Fund Responsible Investment Policy response on behalf of the Council.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS

Members were advised that there was currently travelers on site in the Borough and that Officers were engaging with Police and pursuing legal action. The use of skips to dispose of waste was being examined and other sites were being checked to protect access. This was being dealt with as quickly and legally as possible.

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.40 pm