

DRAFT - Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Proposal:	Reduce food safety interventions
Executive Lead:	Cllr Manning
Director / Assistant Director:	Fran Hughes

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Section 1: Background Information

1.	<p>What is the proposal / issue?</p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the Food Safety budget by a total of £46k – this proposal will mean a reducing the number of Food Safety Officers from 5.81 to 4.81 (A reduction of 1 FTE).</p> <p>The Food Safety Officer Post in question is currently funded by the Public Health Grant – but as this grant is being reduced the funding for this post will cease.</p> <p>The Food Safety Service is a statutory service that is audited by the Food Standards Agency. The proposal to reduce the number of Food Safety Officers will see a reduction in food safety inspections undertaken as well as a reduction in the frequency of inspections. This will mean that there will be an overall reduced ability to respond to food safety emergencies.</p> <p>Consequently there are other risks associated with this proposal, namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Potential intervention by the Food Standards Agency,- Potential reputational damage to the Council i.e. as a result of an outbreak of food borne infection which could have been prevented by an intervention from the council. <p>This proposal also means that there would be an overall lack of resilience in this service going forward.</p> <p>While there are risks associated with this proposal recent changes to the Food Standards agency requirements may mitigate these reductions. It is also expected that the Food Standards Agency will report on a range of alternative delivery models which may assist local authorities in the delivery of services later in the year.</p>
2.	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>The council's food safety service currently comprises 5.81FTE plus a principal officer (7 people).</p> <p>These members of staff undertake a variety of statutory duties specified in the Food Safety Act and approved codes of practice to protect public safety, health</p>

	and welfare, food hygiene, food standards and investigation of infectious disease.
3.	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>As one of the posts is funded by public health grant, then the reduction in funding will result in the loss of a post. There is no alternative means of funding this post currently as the council is unable to charge for the delivery of its statutory duties.</p>
4.	<p>How does this proposal support the ambitions, principles and delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19?</p> <p>Ambitions: Prosperous and Healthy Torbay</p> <p>Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use reducing resources to best effect • Reduce demand through prevention and innovation • Integrated and joined up approach <p>Targeted actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy lifestyles across Torbay • Ensuring Torbay remains an attractive and safe place to live and visit
5.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with?</p> <p>The proposal has the potential to affect businesses and the wider community of Torbay as well as the Food Safety Team employed by the council.</p>
6.	<p>How will you propose to consult?</p> <p>Consultation on this proposal will be undertaken as part of the general budget consultation - questionnaires will be made available to members of the public online and in paper.</p>
<p>Section 2: Expected Implications and Impact Assessment (These sections will be updated and expanded following the consultation period.)</p>	
7.	<p>What are the <u>expected</u> financial and legal implications?</p> <p>The Council is required to fulfil the requirements set out by the Food Standards Agency in respect of delivering its statutory duties under the Food Safety Act and associated Codes of Practice. As a result of the proposed reduction in funding from a post within the service will be lost. This reduction has the potential to limit the capacity of the team to fulfil a full range of services. It will also reduce the amount of public health and nutritional work which the team</p>

	<p>provides on behalf of the public health team.</p> <p>There are risks associated with the reduction of this service; however, recent changes to the Food Standards agency requirements may mitigate these reductions. It is also expected that the Food Standards Agency will provide a range of alternative measures to assist local authorities in the delivery of services later in the year.</p>
8.	<p>What are the <u>expected</u> risks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in the amount of food hygiene and food standards work undertaken• Risk of challenge from the Food Standards Agency should there be a substantial reduction in levels of intervention• Lack of resilience within the team and ability to keep pace with demand