2. Public Protection Service Profile
(2026/27)

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Purpose of Plan

This Business Plan provides an overview of the service, and sets out its key priorities, high level objectives, key deliverables, and key performance measures. It will be supported by individual team plans which contain more detail about how teams work towards meeting priorities and measuring success.

The priorities and actions set out in the Business Plan focus only on key areas of development, improvement, and transformation, and does not cover all detailed aspects of service delivery. The identified priorities will link directly into the Council's contribution towards the Community Plan and achievement of productivity and savings targets.

Progress against the service plan will be reviewed on a regular basis within directorate teams, by the Corporate Strategy Team, and in consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

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1. Service Overview

Service Description

The key role of the Public Health and Public Protection service is to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Hull.

The Public Protection area includes the following functions:

- Food Safety and Standards Compliance
- Food and water borne infectious disease control.
- Health and Safety Regulation of Workplaces
- Pest Control Services (inc. drainage investigations).
- Reactive Nuisance Teams (light, noise, properties open to trespass, filthy and verminous premises, out of hours service)
- Air Quality Strategy and monitoring, Industrial Permitting and Contaminated Land Strategy and monitoring
- Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Dog Warden Service
- Licensing of Taxis, Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing, Gambling, Sex Establishments, Zoos, Scrap Metal dealers, Dangerous Wild Animals
- Tobacco Control and Health Act Regulation
- Fair Trading (inc. weights and measures/ Counterfeit goods/product safety/trademarks/motor vehicle trade compliance)
- Underage Sales
- Prevention of Scams
- Product Safety at the Humber Ports

The Public Protection function is essentially a statutory service with very few functions which fall outside this remit. Those which do, which are the pesticide treatment side of the pest control and the work we do with the national team on the prevention of scams are an equally important part of the service which forms part of our links with public health and helps with the broader agenda of reducing health inequalities through the environment and consideration of the social and commercial determinants of health. It is also important that the Service contributes to corporate priorities which they have the expertise to influence risk management on request even if there are no strict responsibilities associated with those activities. Health and safety input in support of the events team would be an activity which falls into that category.

The statutory services provided are either determined by specific central government requirements (targets) or they are demand led, subject to suitable resources being available. The nature of an urban authority, where there are significant levels of deprivation has an impact on the demands placed upon the Public Protection service. The nature and types of businesses in Hull also impact on the levels of service we need to provide.

We would expect the profile of our city to impact on the demands on our services. This is illustrated with a few examples below:

- The number of approved food premises in Hull is 35, due to the historical food manufacturing base of the City whereas the surrounding authorities will have far fewer. These premises are higher risk as they have wide distribution networks.

- We have high turnover of food businesses, with large numbers of take aways and independent fast-food outlets. These businesses are numerous in Hull and are not in the high end of the market - the ones which don't comply may need significant enforcement intervention.

- Criminality relating to counterfeit goods, unfair trading and illicit tobacco is prevalent in the City, and the community may be vulnerable to these activities due to poverty and deprivation.

- Higher levels of antisocial behaviour in the community are likely to generate complaints associated with noise nuisance. Poorer standards of accommodation associated with deprived areas increases the demands on pest control services.

The Public Protection team are based at 33 Witham, this accommodation provides an office base for staff, space for conducting and recording interviews under caution, storage space for sized items and accommodation for the vehicles and paraphernalia associated with running the pest control service.

Strategic Direction / Future Plans

The key challenges facing Public Protection are:

- Continuing uncertainty in local authority (and public sector generally) finances
- Requirement to comply with statutory duties including areas which have increasing demands without a significant increase in overall resources (other than cost of living salary increases).
- Difficulties in recruiting professionally qualified / registered staff. Although the Public Protection Review carried out in 2023 helped improve this, many of the posts which attracted a market supplement as part of the restructure, will have this reviewed this year.

Recent external legislative changes requiring enforcement strategies to achieve business compliance include:

- In May 2024 the new Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act (DMCCA) brought in controls to cover drip pricing, misleading reviews, and pressure selling. Although this is enforced by the CMA there are relevant considerations for Trading Standards as Consumer Law Regulators.
- In June 2025 the Single Use Vapes Ban came into force with the introduction of civil sanctions, through fixed penalties.
- In July 2025, the Product Regulation and Metrology Act came into force. This will allow the secretary of state to amend regulations to reflect how products are bought and used today and in the future.
- The Dangerous Dog Breeds List 2025 is regularly updated and requires dangerous dog breeds to be registered with the local authority. The 2024 XL Bully legislation is

also still having an impact on the dog warden service, due to increases in strays of similar breeds.

- Tobacco and Vapes Bill - Potential changes to the age limits for tobacco sales and tobacco licensing will have an enforcement impact on the Trading Standards Team and an administrational impact on the Licensing team.
- Licensing of non-surgical cosmetic procedures will increase the workloads on the Health and Safety team. This regime is not yet finalised, to date.
- In April 2023, the new air quality targets for fine particulates were published these will come into force 2040 will have an impact on the Environmental Regulation team.

Overall Service Priorities

Service Priority	**Strategic Driver (Community Plan Ambition, Government, Organisational, etc)**
Meeting the Food Standards Agency targets for food hygiene inspections and our internal targets for Food Standards Inspections, reporting back if needed to the FSA. Implementing the newly introduced Food Standards Delivery Model. Delivery of a food service plan for 26/27, which is submitted to Scrutiny Committee.	Community Plan Ambition – A Healthier and Fairer Hull Community Plan Ambition – Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods Food Standards Agency expectations
Delivering a new charging regime for Taxi licensing to reflect the changing costs associated with delivering this service. Third phase comes in April 2026.	Community Plan Ambition – A Healthier and Fairer Hull Community Plan Ambition – Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods
Continuing with the work on clamping down on illicit tobacco and vapes and responding to the proposed Tobacco Licensing legislation. Enforcing the single use vapes ban.	Community Plan Ambition – A Healthier and Fairer Hull Community Plan Ambition – Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods
Continuing to implement the cross - Humber Port Product Safety initiative, following the appointment of the port product safety team in 2025 and the bringing online of the Ports at Grimsby and Immingham.	Community Plan Ambition – A Healthier and Fairer Hull
Introducing the use of the Community Protection Notice/ Warning into the Environmental Regulation team.	Community Plan Ambition – Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods

2. Service Resources and Assets

Staffing and Financial Resources (including grants)

Budget 2026/27	**£000'**		
Staff Costs	3,874	**Budget Changes**	**£000's**
Other Expenditure	430	26/27 Efficiency Savings	
Gross Expenditure	**4,304**		
Fees & Charges	-919	25/26 Savings undelivered	
Grant Income	-285		
Other Income	-133		
Gross Income	**-1,337**		
		Investments	
Net Expenditure	**2,967**	Funding of Base Pressures	