

Report on	Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model
Date of Meeting	7th December 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members about the Food Standards Agency's Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model and to seek any comments/amendments from Members on the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council draft response.
2.0	Background
2.1	In Northern Ireland, district councils (DCs) are Competent Authorities responsible for verifying compliance with food law in the majority of food businesses. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for providing advice and guidance on the approach that DCs should take, and this is set out in the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code). DCs have a duty to have regard to the provisions in the Code in relation to the delivery of Official Controls.
2.2	The Code requires regular review and revision to ensure that it reflects current priorities, policy, and legislative requirements so that DCs delivery of food control activities remain effective, consistent, and proportionate.
2.3	The FSA is required to consult on amendments to the Code before implementation. The purpose of this consultation is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the FSA's current proposals for amending the Code for Northern Ireland.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The main proposals outlined in this FSA consultation involve fundamental changes to the current Food Standards Delivery Model within the Food Law Code of Practice, and associated content. The proposals include the introduction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Food Standards Intervention Rating Scheme that officers will use to evaluate the risk posed by a food business; and • A new Decision Matrix to determine the frequency at which food standards official controls should be delivered in line with the outcome of the risk assessment.
3.2	

	<p>Northern Ireland Food Managers Group, which sits under Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI), has prepared a response to the FSA's consultation on the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model. The regional response has been reviewed by the Environmental Health department and a Mid Ulster District Council response drafted for consideration/comments by Members.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A during this current consultation phase.
	Human: Officer time to prepare and submit a consultation response.
	Risk Management: N/A during this current consultation phase.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To give approval for the enclosed draft consultation response on the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model, and to send the consultation response to the Food Standards Agency before the deadline of 9 th January 2023.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Mid Ulster District Council's proposed response to the FSA's Consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) in relation to the new Food Standards Delivery Model.
6.2	<p>The full consultation packaging can be viewed at the following link:</p> <p>https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/Consultation%20pack%20-%20Food%20Law%20Code%20of%20Practice%20Review%20for%20Food%20Standards%20Delivery%20Model%20%28NI%29.pdf</p>