

<b>Report on</b>	To inform Council on the 10-year anniversary of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform Council about the 10-year anniversary of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) is a Food Standards Agency (FSA)/local authority partnership initiative in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This national scheme currently operates on a statutory basis in Wales and Northern Ireland. It provides consumers with information about hygiene standards in food business establishments at the time the premises are inspected to check compliance with legal requirements on food hygiene. The food hygiene rating given reflects the inspection findings.
2.2	The purpose of the FHRS is to allow consumers to make informed decisions about the places where they eat out or shop for food and, through these decisions, encourage businesses to improve their hygiene standards. The overarching aim is to reduce the incidence of food-borne illness and the associated costs to the economy. There are six different food hygiene ratings ('0' up to '5') - the top rating represents a 'very good' level of compliance with legal requirements and all businesses irrespective of the nature or size of their operation should be able to achieve this. Food hygiene ratings are published online on the FSA website. Businesses are required to display stickers showing their food hygiene ratings at their premises where consumers can easily see them. The FHRS incorporates safeguards to ensure fairness to businesses. This includes an appeal procedure, a 'right to reply' for publication (together with the food hygiene rating), and a mechanism for requesting a re-inspection/re-visit for the purposes of re-rating when improvements have been made.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 marked the 10-year anniversary of the introduction of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme as a voluntary scheme. In 2016, the FHRS made the transition from being a voluntary scheme to becoming a statutory scheme in Northern Ireland.

3.2	The FHRS has been very successful at driving up standards in food businesses across Northern Ireland. Currently in Mid Ulster District Council, 99% of businesses are rated as either 3 (Satisfactory), 4 (Good) or 5 (Very Good); with 5 rated premises accounting for 86% of these businesses.
3.3	To mark this significant achievement, the Chair of the Food Standards Agency, Heather Hancock, and the Chief Executive, Emily Miles, have written to all local authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to thank them for their hard work and dedication over the last decade in operating such a successful scheme.
3.4	A copy of the letter that has been sent to the local authorities is attached with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Council notes the content of this paper and the letter from the Food Standards Agency acknowledging the good work carried out by Local Authorities in relation to the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Letter from Food Standards Agency re: 10 year anniversary of FHRS.