

## **Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 June 2018**

Food Hygiene – Update on Task Group Report submitted to the Cabinet on 22 March 2017

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1. Wyre Council Web Page has a dedicated page to food safety. The information can be found by using the A to Z, selecting F and then scroll down to Food Safety. Once on the food safety page there is a section all about the food hygiene rating scheme. In addition this year Wyre Council have completed 3 prosecutions of food businesses located in the Wyre area, who had failed to heed the advice of the food safety team. On each of these occasions we have issued a press release about the nature of the prosecution and the poor standards found, but equally a message to consumers about where they can get information about their favourite restaurant is always included.
2. Following the production of the task and finish report a letter was produced from the Chief executive of Wyre Council to the Right Hon Michael Gove MP in November 2017, who was then the Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs copying in Wyre MP's. The letter outlined the work of the task and finish group and requested that at the earliest opportunity the introduction of legislation in England requiring the mandatory display of the food hygiene rating in food establishments as is currently required in Wales. The letter sent and the response received from the Food Standard Agency is provided as appendix A & B respectively.
3. At Wyre Council the Arts and Development Officer Co-ordinates a Wyre Event Safety Group. As part of this group a representative from the Environmental health team attends and ensures that food traders are registered with a Local Authority and that their food hygiene rating is 3 or above indicating that the unit and its operation are broadly compliant with food hygiene legislation. Where we come into contact with traders who are not registered we will advise that they are not allowed to trade until they have registered and had their vehicle checked by the relevant Local Authority.
4. The Task and finish report was circulated to colleagues around the Council to highlight the need for food establishments applying for awards to achieve a food hygiene rating of 4 and above as a pre requisite to obtaining the award. As a result of this message a food business was withdrawn from this year's Wyre Business awards as it had not achieved this standard.
5. I am pleased to report that the number of establishments which are now considered to be broadly compliant in Wyre has increased from the 89% reported on the 21 September 2016 to 95% although there has been a slight reduction in the total number of food establishments.