

CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE ON FOOD TRACEABILITY, WITHDRAWALS AND RECALLS WITHIN THE UK FOOD INDUSTRY	5th February 2019
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR DECISION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Accelerating our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity
Outcome	Provide advice and guidance to food business and food enforcement authorities in dealing with food safety withdrawals and recalls.
Lead Officer	Food, Health & Safety and Consumer Protection Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

Background

The subject of this consultation is newly developed guidance to assist food businesses in complying with food law and provide advice and supporting tools to food businesses and food enforcement authorities in dealing with food safety withdrawals and recalls. The guidance outlines legal requirements and includes best practice advice.

The new guidance aims to:

- clarify the roles and responsibilities of key players involved in food safety withdrawals and recalls
- provide best practice guidance to help food businesses make consumer recall notifications more consistent and accessible
- help industry make trade communications consistent and effective
- develop and implement systematic root cause analysis procedures for industry in the event of food safety incidents

The guidance has been developed using a multi-stakeholder working group approach.

The full consultation paper can be found at <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/guidance-on-food-traceability-withdrawals-and-recalls-within-the-uk-food-industry>

Attached as Appendix 1 is a suggested response to the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council endorse this response.

The closing date for submission of responses to the Food Standards Agency is 4th February 2019. Due to time constraints the attached has been submitted as a Council Officer response pending endorsement by Council.

Appendix 1

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Consultation Response on Guidance on Food Traceability, Withdrawals and Recalls within the UK Food Industry.

Document: <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/guidance-on-food-traceability-withdrawals-and-recalls-within-the-uk-food-industry>

Closing Date: 4th February 2019

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Consultation on Guidance on Food Traceability, Withdrawals and Recalls within the UK Food Industry.

This document is comprehensive and gives good detail on businesses responsibilities in the event of a withdrawal or recall. This should help all types of businesses to meet their legal responsibilities and ensure that food is withdrawn or recalled from the market efficiently and effectively.

The new version is easier to read and much more practical and user friendly than the 2007 document. It is laid out in the same manner as the Industry Guides which business should already be familiar with.

A short guidance document was available for businesses with the 2007 version entitled "Principles for preventing and responding to Food Incidents". Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council would welcome the production of something similar for business as a quick guide to refer too.