

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL AND SURREY COUNTY
COUNCIL**

TRADING STANDARDS JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 4 APRIL 2022

LEAD OFFICER: STEVE RUDDY, HEAD OF TRADING STANDARDS

SUBJECT: TRADING STANDARDS CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Looking ahead to what is coming enables the Service and Joint Committee to consider risks, implications and what approach it wishes to take to upcoming issues.

The attached paper looks at legislation that the Service will have responsibility to enforce when it comes into force during 2022 and considers two government policy papers regarding “Levelling Up” and “Brexit Benefits”.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Trading Standards Joint Committee notes the current and emerging issues attached as Annex A.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is important for the Service to look ahead to upcoming and emerging issues to enable it, and the Joint Committee, to consider at an early stage what the implications and risks may be. Where relevant these are discussed in the attached paper.

DETAILS:

1. The attached paper covers areas including: The Calorie Labelling (Out of Home Sector) (England) Regulations 2021; The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations 2021; changes to the draft Online Safety Bill 2021; the Government policy paper “Brexit Benefits”; the Government White paper “Levelling Up”; the Public Accounts Committee report into protecting consumers from unsafe products; and a BEIS Parliamentary Committee Investigation into post-pandemic economic growth, state aid and post-Brexit competition policy.
2. The Calorie Labelling (Out of Home Sector) (England) Regulations aim to make it easier for people eating out to understand how much energy is in the food they are eating to enable customers to make informed choices. This legislation comes into force from 6th April 2022.

3. The Food (Promotion and Placement) (England) Regulations comes into force in October 2022 and aims to:
 - a. reduce the availability of products high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) bought through “volume promotions” like ‘buy one get one free’ offers, and
 - b. to restrict the placement of HFSS product categories in high footfall areas of an affected store, like checkouts, end-of-aisle units, store entrances, and designated queueing areas.
4. The Government’s “Brexit Benefits” Policy paper suggests a review on “the EU ban on imperial markings and sales” and enabling businesses to use a crown pint symbol on pint glasses. The attached paper highlights the need for Trading Standards, as the Weights and Measures Authority, to be consulted on the use of imperial measures so that we can feedback the costs for enforcement and practical issues that this will entail.
5. The governments White paper on “Levelling Up” is also considered in the attached paper which contains several areas that are directly relevant to Trading Standards but has no specific mentions or direct references.

CONSULTATION:

6. No consultation has occurred.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

7. By looking ahead to upcoming and emerging issues the Service is considering at an early stage what the implications and risks may be. Where there are particular issues these are raised in the attached paper.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

8. This paper is for information only with no significant policy changes to be considered. There are no new additional financial implications.

Legal Implications

9. Some of the issues relate to new legislation as set out above, which the Service will have responsibility for enforcement.

Equalities and Diversity

10. This paper is for information only with no significant policy changes to be considered and, in our opinion the issues will not have an impact on residents or staff, particularly people with protected characteristics.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

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Contact Officer:

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Consulted:**Annexes:**

Annex A: Current and Emerging Issues

Sources/background papers:

- None
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