

<b>Title of Report:</b>  <b>Consultation on the proposed Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017</b>	<b>Officer Presenting: Director of Health and Community</b>  <b>Author: Head of Health and Community Wellbeing</b>
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To inform members about the consultation on the draft Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 In July 2015, the Food Standard Agency's (FSA) Board discussed the conclusions of the review on raw drinking milk (RDM). One of the recommendations was that risk communication, particularly to vulnerable groups, should be improved and this should include revisions to labelling requirements in Northern Ireland and England to mirror that already used in Wales.
- 2.2 This consultation will be of most interest to RDM producers and raw cream producers in Northern Ireland and England, RDM consumers, enforcement authorities and those with an interest in RDM.
- 2.3 The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended) and the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013 would need to be amended to provide new labelling provisions to protect vulnerable consumers against the risks associated with the consumption of RDM and to extend labelling provisions to all species.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The purpose of this consultation is to provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment and express their opinions on the proposed labelling provisions to protect vulnerable consumers and on the associated Impact Assessment.
- 3.2 One of the key proposals is to amend the current labelling provisions for Northern Ireland and England to protect vulnerable consumers against risks associated with consumption of RDM and introduce consistent labelling requirements for all species.

- 3.3 Currently RDM (except buffalo) is required to be labelled with the warning; "This milk has not been heat-treated and may therefore contain organisms harmful to health". It is proposed that in Northern Ireland and England enhanced labelling is introduced to RDM from all species which will include the following additional wording: "The FSA strongly advises that it should not be consumed by children, pregnant women, older people and those who are unwell or have chronic illness".
- 3.4 All producers of RDM will be affected by the proposed labelling change. The proposal will also affect enforcement bodies and others with an interest in RDM. Information on the benefits, costs and impacts is provided in the accompanying Impact Assessment with the consultation.
- 3.5 The consultation response is contained in Appendix 1.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial or other implications.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That members approve Derry City & Strabane District Council response to the consultation of the draft Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

#### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: DCSDC Consultation Response