

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT
TO THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

13 DECEMBER 2017
ALL WARDS

FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET

1. Summary

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the involvement by Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers at the Frankfurt Christmas Market, which was inspected on Thursday 16 November 2017.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

Originating Officer: Mark Croxford, Head of Environmental Health

Contact Officer: Nick Lowe, Operations Manager Food Team
Telephone: 0121 303 2491
E-mail: nick.lowe@birmingham.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Vir Ahluwalia, Operations Manager Trading Standards
Telephone: 0121 303 9370
E-mail: Vir.Ahluwalia@birmingham.gov.uk

3. Background

- 3.1 As in previous years, the food market stalls offered various traditional German cuisine including frankfurters, schnitzel, hamburgers as well as a range of German breads and pastries many of which are baked on site each day. The food of other nationalities is also catered for from other non-German stalls, but which in more recent years have also tended to support the Christmas event. Owing to the Paradise development work there was no space for the Craft Market stalls to be present this year.
- 3.2 In order to promote safe food hygiene practices and to enforce relevant food legislation at this years event, Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers attended pre-event planning meetings with the organisers and Environmental Health visited and inspected a total of 53 'high risk' food stalls.
- 3.3 Prior to the event opening an information pack, which included a section on the principles of how to ensure food safety, was provided to the event organisers. This was then available for all stall holders making an application to trade at the Frankfurt Market to receive a copy well in advance of it opening.
- 3.4 Trading Standards also provided an advisory information pack to the SAG and event organisers prior to the event. This covered a variety of Consumer Protection legislation such as Weights and Measures, Product Safety and Pricing.
- 3.5 Officers from Environmental Health and Trading Standards also attended and presented information at the stallholders and staff briefing meeting on the evening of Wednesday 15th November 2017 at the Council House.

4. Inspections by Environmental Health and Trading Standards

- 4.1 Environmental Health Officers visited and inspected all 'high risk' food stalls and where necessary provided advice and recommendations to Food Business Operators in order to ensure their stall operations and practices complied with food safety requirements.
- 4.2 Any areas of non compliance that were identified during the process of inspection were dealt with at the time and with strict regard to the risk to health of the attending public.
- 4.3 Traders were issued with pass, improve or fail cards respectively coloured green, yellow and red. Those that received the fail cards are not allowed to trade until they have rectified the problems which led to a fail card being issued.
- 4.4 Trading Standards Officers prioritised stalls selling alcohol and items on sale particularly aimed at younger people. In addition stalls selling items with

product safety implications were also prioritised. All stalls using weighing machines selling loose products had their machines tested this year.

- 4.5 As outlined before owing to the Paradise development there was no space for the Craft Market stalls to be present this year.

5. Specific Issues

- 5.1 Of the 53 food inspections carried out on 16th November at the Frankfurt Market, 33 traders were immediately awarded a green pass card and 15 required minor improvements. Much of this related to improvements to hand washing facilities, pest proofing and a number failed to display any information relating to allergen advice for food on sale. Five traders were issued fail notices. This required them to cease trading; this was due to a lack of Hand Wash Basins on the stalls with two also not having any antibacterial spray and one demonstrating cross contamination issues.
- 5.2 All of the stalls rectified the issues shortly afterwards to allow them to trade. One of the traders was upgraded to an 'improve' as there were still cross contamination issues apparent. All stalls that received an 'improve' were subject to revisits and as of 21st November all traders are up to standard.
- 5.3 Inspections of non-food stalls by Trading Standards Officers found very good general compliance. Those stalls selling alcohol were found to be displaying the correct notices and stallholders were found to have a good working knowledge of all aspects relating to avoiding under-aged sales. A few minor non-compliance issues were dealt with and resolved during inspection. It was noted that there was a high standard of clarity of price indications this year.

6. Outcome

- 6.1 The Food Team will use this data to help ensure mobile traders who attend outdoor events staged in Birmingham continue to comply with the requirements of Food Hygiene and Safety legislation.
- 6.2 Product safety was assured and the city is assured that all traders are aware of their responsibilities to those under age when selling alcohol.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Consultation was not undertaken directly with stall holders, although significant efforts were made with the event organisers and at the SAG meetings to ensure all relevant information was available prior to the stall holders coming on site.

8. Implications for Resources

- 8.1 There were no additional costs incurred from the Committees approved budget.

9. Implications for Policy Priorities

- 9.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Regulation and Enforcement Mission Statement - locally accountable and responsive fair regulation for all – achieving a safe, healthy, clean, green and fair trading city for residents, business and visitors.

10. Public Sector Equality Duty

- 10.1 The Frankfurt Christmas Market is an enormously popular annual event that has huge seasonal appeal. It continues to attract large numbers of people from all sections of the community and has acquired both national and international acclaim.

ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Background Papers: nil