

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**14 DECEMBER 2016**  
**ALL WARDS**

**FRANKFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET AND CRAFT FAIR**

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 17 November 2016 and the Craft Market that was inspected on Saturday 19 November 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

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### 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.
- 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 visited and inspected a total of 61 '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 and Craft 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.

### 4. Inspections by Environmental Health and Trading Standards

- 4.1 Environmental Health Officers visited and inspected all 'high risk' mobile 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, blue 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.
- 4.5 Both sets of officers undertook the same exercise and inspections for the Craft Market stalls on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## 5. Specific Issues

- 5.1 Of the 40 food inspections carried out on 17<sup>th</sup> November at the Frankfurt Market, 26 traders were immediately awarded a green pass card, 12 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. Two traders were issued fail notices. This required them to cease trading, one because of a lack of hot water and insufficient pest proofing to the stall, and the second required hot water and an improvement to their hot holding temperatures.
- 5.2 Of the two stalls required to cease trading, one improved sufficiently to be issued with a "Pass" shortly afterwards, and the other trader improved sufficiently to receive an "Improve" which enabled him to trade whilst still requiring a few improvements. As of 21<sup>st</sup> November all are up to standard.
- 5.3 The Craft Market was similar in results, following their inspection on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November although 16 received pass cards and 5 were issued with improvement cards. There were no fails. Two of the traders were new food businesses and required full food hygiene inspections as this was their first trading on any market in the UK.
- 5.4 Inspections of non-food stalls by Trading Standards Officers on both markets found general compliance. However, one item which related a soft toy attached to a key-ring failed to meet the standards of the toy safety regulations and were voluntarily withdrawn immediately. Those stalls selling alcohol were found to be displaying the correct notices and when tested, were compliant in all aspects relating to avoiding under-aged sales and were knowledgeable on this matter.

## 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. Implications for Resources

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

8. Implications for Policy Priorities

- 8.1 The work identified in this report supports the City Council's strategic outcomes, 'Stay Safe' and 'Be Healthy'.

9. Public Sector Equality Duty

- 9.1 The Frankfurt Christmas Market and Craft 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.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 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.

**ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Background Papers: nil