

Appendix 1: Revised Interim Hot Food Takeaway Policy

Under national planning policy, hot food takeaways are a town centre use that should be located within our centres. There are, however, a number of problems that are associated with these uses. Their operation can result in external impacts, such as noise and odours, traffic and parking, and litter. They also tend to be open only during the evenings, meaning closed and shuttered shop fronts during the day time.

It is important that there is an appropriate balance of uses within centres to ensure they can fulfil their primary retail function. High proportions and concentrations of hot food takeaway establishments within centres can have a negative impact on their vitality and viability.

There is also a recognised link between take away food and obesity. Childhood obesity, and excess weight, are significant health issues in Middlesbrough, with national evidence¹ identifying Middlesbrough's obesity rates in school children to be higher than the national average. The Council, in order to improve health and wellbeing in the Town and encourage healthier eating choices, will carefully manage applications for hot food takeaways in specific locations (for example, within walking distance of schools) as well as consider their proliferation.

Interim Hot Food Takeaways Policy

Proposals for hot food takeaways (A5 Class Use) will only be permitted where the proposed use would not:

- a. result in the proportion of the total units in the centre in A5 uses exceeding 10%; or
- b. result in more than two adjacent hot food takeaway A5 uses; or
- c. be located within designated Primary Shopping Frontage; and

in addition to the above criteria, in order to promote healthier communities:

- d. planning permission will not be granted for A5 uses within 400m walking distance of an entry point to a secondary school.

Hot food takeaway (A5 class use) will not be permitted outside of a defined centre.

¹ <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-child-measurementprogramme/2016-17-school-year#resources>