

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**24 September 2015] / PR 6227**

### **BIG IMPROVEMENTS FOR FOOD SAFETY IN BEXLEY**

It's official - nearly 100% of food businesses in Bexley now comply with the national Food Hygiene Rating Score (FHRS) of three or above - a rise of nearly 30% from two years ago.

In 2013 Bexley was named as a London borough with one of the highest percentages of food establishments with no or very low scores. The annual 'Which? Report' used Food Safety Agency (FSA) figures provided by each London Council.

Following the report the Council redoubled its efforts to ensure that as many as possible were brought into line with the Food Safety Agency scoring system to make it clear to consumers that Bexley food premises are safe.

The latest figures show that 94% of food businesses in Bexley comply with the FSA scores, compared to 87% across London and 93% nationally. The impressive results show that Bexley now has over 500 food premises rated with the top score of five. Only five of the boroughs food businesses have scored zero.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Environment and Leisure, Cllr Peter Craske said: "The 'Which? Report' was a surprise to us, although we maintain that our position was largely to do with the different timings and methods that individual councils use.

"We knew we needed to take a different approach to make sure our businesses were aware of the importance of the FSA scores and how essential it is to made the grade. We changed our methods and are tougher than ever before. New ways of working have included a huge rise in enforcement notices and use of surveillance and sampling.

"Through hard work we have upped our scores and hope that residents and visitors have confidence when they choose a FSA compliant business to buy their food."

Food Safety Standards hygiene scores should be displayed clearly on compliant businesses. Businesses with scores of less than three out of five are non-compliant. Premises scores can be checked at the FSA website at [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)

Bexley's Food Safety Team provide training, advice and information to all local food

businesses. If you have concerns about a local business please email  
food.safety@bexley.gov.uk  
or call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Food Safety.

ENDS

**Please contact: Jane Parson on 020 3045 4868  
communications@bexley.gov.uk**



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