

Planning Advice Note
Hot Food Takeaways

Adopted March 2026



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Planning Advice Note: Hot Food Takeaways

1. About this Guidance

- 1.1** This Planning Advice Note sets out the Council's approach to dealing with hot food takeaways in respect of meeting the Council's health and wellbeing agenda. It should be read in conjunction with the SPD on hot food takeaways.

2. Introduction

- 2.1** Hot food takeaways are controlled by a range of different regulations and a number of statutory requirements must be satisfied before trading can begin. This note has been prepared to deal principally with the land use issues. However, policies which promote good public health are to be encouraged and the planning system is an important tool for improving health and well-being.
- 2.2** This Planning Advice Note sets out the Council's priorities and objective in relation to the planning control of hot food takeaways. It elaborates upon existing and emerging policy in relation to health and wellbeing.
- 2.3** Barnsley Council and Barnsley 2030 partners are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of its residents, staff and visitors. This commitment is demonstrated through the Barnsley Council Plan 2024-2027, the Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030, the Great Childhoods Ambition and the Healthy Life Expectancy Strategy 2025-2030. Barnsley's Food Plan also sets out a strategic approach to address the challenges surrounding food insecurity, poor nutrition, and food-related health issues in the community which references hot food takeaway and the food environment. The Hot Food Takeaway SPD and PAN documents aim to reduce the trend towards increasing levels of obesity in Barnsley by preventing the over concentration of hot food takeaways and reducing the impact for vulnerable groups, such as school children.
- 2.4** In addition, Barnsley Council and its partners have signed up to the Healthy Weight Declaration, which follows a national initiative led by Food Active adopted by local authorities to address obesity levels. The Healthy Weight Declaration acknowledges the need to create environments that enable healthy behaviours, including making healthy choices easier. It is underpinned by 14 standard commitments including considering commercial partnerships, provision of food and drink in public buildings, facilities and providers, and infrastructure needed to influence active travel.
- 2.5** One specific element of the Barnsley Healthy Weight Declaration is the consideration of supplementary planning guidance for hot food takeaways, specifically in areas around schools, parks and where access to healthier alternatives are limited.

Use Classes Order

- 2.6** Hot food takeaways don't fall into any use class of the Town and Country Planning (Use Class) Order 1987 (as amended). The proposed layout of the premises will provide a clear guide as to whether a proposal is a restaurant (falling within use class

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E(b) of the Use Class Order or a hot food takeaway (and not falling within any class of the UCO). This SPD will also be applied to drive through restaurants.

2.7 In determining the dominant use of the premises consideration will be given to:

- The proportion of space designated for hot food preparation and other servicing in relation to designated customer circulation space; and/or
- The number of tables and chairs to be provided for customer use;
- The percentage of the use to the overall turnover of the business.

3. Policy

3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework updated in December 2024 states at paragraph 97 that: Local planning authorities should refuse applications for hot food takeaways and fast food outlets: a) within walking distance of schools and other places where children and young people congregate, unless the location is within a designated town centre; or b) in locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social-behaviour. The National Planning Policy Framework section 8 "Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities" states that "Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which: enable and support healthy lives through both promoting good health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling."

3.2 The following extract from Local Plan policy D1 High Quality Design and Placemaking is relevant where it states that development should:

- **Contribute to place making and be of a high quality that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment.**
- **In terms of place making, development should make a positive contribution to achieving qualities of a successful place such as character, legibility, permeability and vitality.**

4. Further Advice

Planning

4.1 The Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document advises that pre-application discussion about the suitability of a particular property may avoid the submission of an application where the proposal would create an unacceptable impact on the environment. If you have any questions or queries, initial contact should be made with Development Management. Telephone number 01226 772595.

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Regulatory Services

- 4.2** As set out in the Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document, for advice on the control of noise and odour, food hygiene, or health and safety, contact Regulatory Services on 01226 773555.

Licensing

- 4.3** For advice on the licensing of late night refreshments, contact Legal Services, Licensing on 01226 773843.

5. Health

- 5.1** Levels of overweight and obesity are a health concern in Barnsley. 67.8% of Barnsley adults are either overweight or obese which is 3.8% higher than the national average. Over a third of Barnsley's 10-11 year olds are overweight or obese and 23.2% of 5 year olds are overweight (including obese) (NHS England 2024). Improving levels of healthy weight is a priority for the Public Health working with our partners. This is recognised in the most recent Public Health Strategy (2025-2027) and Healthy Life Expectancy Strategy 2025–2030.
- 5.2** Obesity is associated with health impacts including diabetes, heart disease and cancer. It can lead to reduced life opportunities and contribute to mental ill health due to stigma. Obesity-related ill health reduces workforce productivity and places a heavy burden on the NHS. Estimates put the annual cost of obesity at 1–2% of GDP – a figure only likely to increase.
(Ref: <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/tackling-obesity.pdf>)
- 5.3** There are now 8.65 million economically inactive people in the UK (people who are neither working nor available for work), a rise of 281,000 since early 2020, with 50 to 64 year-olds and people with work-limiting health problems largely driving the increase. Long-term sickness is now the most common reason for being economically inactive, with 2.52 million people of working age reporting this as the main reason in March to May 2023 (Major conditions strategy, 2023)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/major-conditions-strategy-case-for-change-and-our-strategic-framework/major-conditions-strategy-case-for-change-and-our-strategic-framework--2>

Hot Food Takeaways and Obesity

- 5.4** In 2018 Public Health England (PHE) emphasised that local physical surroundings have a large impact on the population as residents are now living in an environment which encourages unhealthy behaviours, such as eating more high calorie food and exercising less. One of the biggest factors influencing our choices is the density of hot food takeaways. Evidence shows that the environment can help people access and choose healthier food options on our high streets, around schools and in our town centres. The local environment in which people live and work are contributing

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factors to excess calorie consumption and inactive lifestyles and can make it challenging for people to make healthy choices and increase the risk of becoming overweight or obese. This complex relationship can create what is known as an obesogenic environment.

- 5.5** During the last decade the consumption of food away from the home has increased by 29% with the number of takeaways or fast food outlets increasing dramatically. Takeaway food has been demonstrated to be energy dense and to have high levels of sugar, salt and fat and low levels of micro nutrients. Single large meals and snacks obtained in hot food takeaway outlets often approach or exceed recommended daily requirements for energy, fats, sugar and salt thereby increasing the risk of obesity if eaten regularly (more than once a week). Ref: *Healthy weight environments: using the planning system- GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)*

Hot Food Takeaways and Schools

- 5.6** Children who are overweight or obese are more likely to be overweight or obese as adults, increasing their risk of preventable diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. With a third of Barnsley's children leaving primary school overweight or obese, shaping our food environment is an important part of supporting healthier lifestyles.
- 5.7** Both the built and natural environments can have an influence on our health and wellbeing. Children may find it more difficult to make healthier choices when exposed to numerous fast food options, whether on their way to and from school or out with friends.
- 5.8** Restricting the development of hot food takeaways within a ten minute walking distance of the school will limit children's exposure to food with a high content of fat, sugar and salt.
- 5.9** As part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), children are weighed and measured at school. The information is used by the NHS to plan and provide better health services for children.
- 5.10** The table and graphs below display the proportion of children by age group 4 to 5 years and 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese in Barnsley by electoral ward. The graphs also shows how these rates compare to the Barnsley, Yorkshire and Humber and England averages for these age groups.

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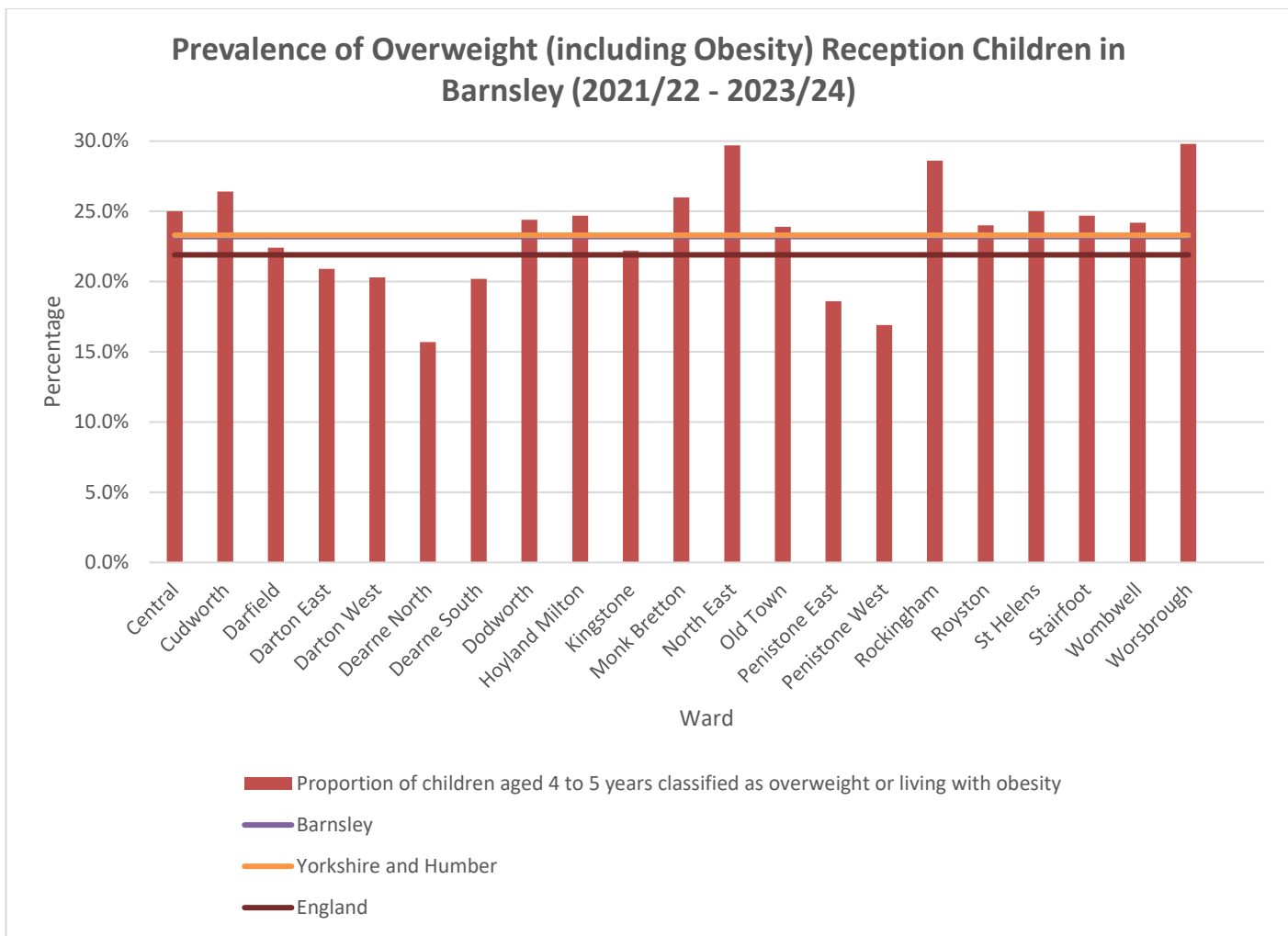
Barnsley Ward Data

Table 1

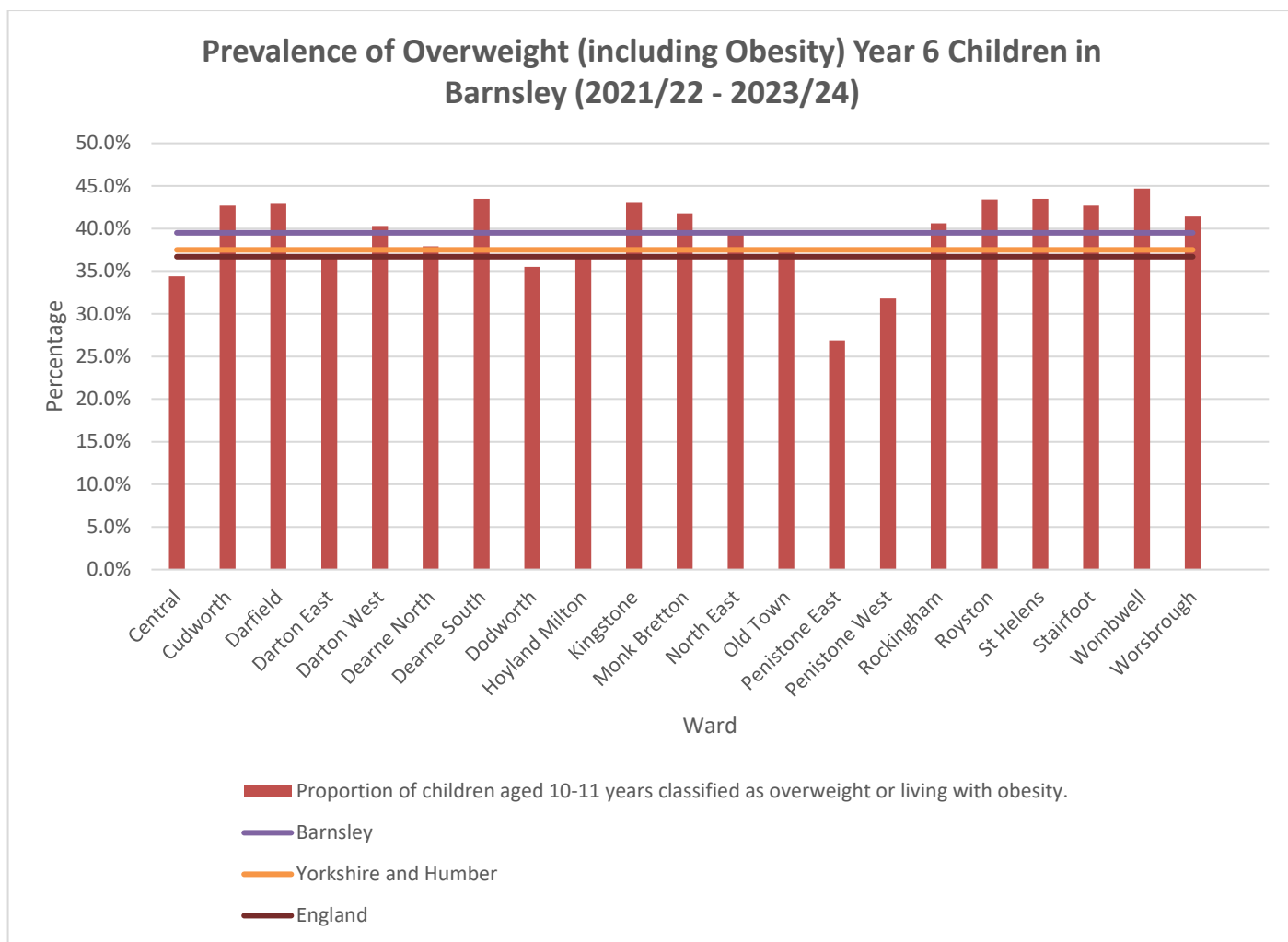
Ward Name	Ward Population	Proportion of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese	Proportion of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese
Central	11,343	25.0%	34.4%
Cudworth	11,639	26.4%	42.7%
Darfield	10,811	22.4.0%	43.0%
Darton East	11,372	20.9%	36.9%
Darton West	10,060	20.3%	40.3%
Dearne North	12,993	15.7%	37.9%
Dearne South	11,451	20.2%	43.5%
Dodworth	11,058	24.7%	35.5%
Hoyland Milton	11,293	24.7%	36.5%
Kingstone	10,514	22.2%	43.1%
Monk Bretton	12,027	26.0%	41.8%
North East	14,380	29.7%	39.8%
Old Town	11,519	23.9%	37.7%
Penistone East	12,585	18.6%	26.9%
Penistone West	12,464	16.9%	31.8%
Rockingham	11,811	28.6%	40.6%
Royston	11,482	24.0%	43.4%
St Helens	11,143	25.0%	43.5%
Stairfoot	13,197	24.7%	42.7%
Wombwell	11,978	24.2%	44.7%
Worsbrough	9,436	29.8%	41.4%

Ward Population Data Source: Office for National Statistics 2021 Census.

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Child overweight and obesity data source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, National Child Measurement Programme, three year aggregated data

Data source: Reception prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3 years data combined data - National Child Measurement Programme
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/obesity#page/4/gid/1938133288/pat/401/ati/8/are/E05000996/id/93106/age/200/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

Data source: Year 6 prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3 years data combined data - Public Health Outcomes Framework National Child Measurement Programme
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/obesity#page/4/gid/1938133183/pat/401/ati/8/are/E05000996/id/93108/age/201/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

6. Part 2 – Guidance

Is planning permission required?

- 6.1** As set out in the Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document, planning permission is required to build new premises for a hot food takeaway. The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) subdivides different development types into separate classes of use. The Order also provides details on when planning permission is required to change from one particular use to another.
- 6.2** Where a property currently has permission for use as a hot food takeaway, planning permission is not usually required to use the property for any other type of hot food takeaway. However, the conditions attached to the previous planning permission, such as restrictions on opening hours, will still apply. External building works or alterations that materially change the appearance of an existing hot food takeaway, such as the building of an extension or the installation of a new shop front to the property will usually require planning permission.
- 6.3** Separate advertisement consent is sometimes required to display shop advertisements. For example, consent would be required for signs above fascia level, including projecting signs or banners, and illuminated signs of any kind.

Planning Application Considerations

- 6.4** In addition to those considerations set out in the Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document, the additional considerations arising from this Planning Advice Note are:

1. Over Proliferation

In assessing applications for a hot food takeaway use, consideration will be given to the number of hot food takeaways already present in each ward. The NPPF states that “planning decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which: enable and support healthy lifestyles”. The greater the number of hot food takeaways within a ward the more likely it is that proposals for further hot food takeaways would be in conflict with this part of the NPPF, unless they are within a designated town centre, district or local centre.

2. Proximity to Schools

Outside Barnsley Town Centre, District or Local Centres, proposals for Hot Food Takeaways within an 800m walking distance of a primary school, secondary school or Advanced Learning Centre (ALC), will be refused. District and Local Centres are areas of shopping and services as outlined in the Local Plan.

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3. Location where there are high levels of obesity

In assessing applications for a hot food takeaway, consideration will be given to levels of excess weight of 10-11 year old pupils. The NPPF states that “planning decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which: enable and support healthy lifestyles” Proposals for hot food takeaways within an electoral ward where the proportion of children 10 to 11 years classified as overweight (including obesity) is more than 40% are therefore more likely to be in conflict with this part of the NPPF, (see graph on page 9).

4. Places where young people congregate

In addition to schools the NPPF amended in December 2024 added reference to places where young people congregate. Outside Barnsley Town Centre, District and Local centres, proposals for hot food takeaways within 800m walking distance of places where young people congregate will be refused. In accordance with the Planning Practice Guidance, places where young people congregate are places such as community centres and playgrounds. Parks and leisure centres are also considered to be places where young people congregate. These examples are not exhaustive and a planning judgement will be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether a place is considered to be somewhere where young people congregate.’

5. Health Impact Assessment

Applications for hot food takeaways will be required to include a Health Impact Assessment. (HIA). The HIA will be taken into consideration during assessment of the application.

7. Annex – Health Impact Assessment

Barnsley Hot Food Takeaways

Health Impact Assessment checklist - guidance for planners

This HIA checklist is a practical approach used to judge the effects of the planning application on the health and wellbeing of different groups of people. The findings of the HIA checklist will inform recommendations as to how any positive health impacts of the planning application may be maximised and any negative impacts reduced.

How to use this checklist

Description of Impact – Think about what impact the proposal may have with regard to each of the themes listed. Give details of how the proposal will impact on each specific group or population.

Recommendations - Write recommendations in these columns detailing how positive impacts could be maximised and negative impacts minimised.

A5 uses will be required to use this health impact assessment checklist.

1. Will any population groups be adversely affected by this application? e.g. minority ethnic groups (including traveller communities, refugees & asylum seekers), people living with a disability, older people, children and young people, people living on low incomes.

Yes/No – please state which groups and potential impact

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2. What are the positive and negative impacts of the application, and how would they be mitigated or maximised?

Table 2

Issue	Describe any impacts	Recommendation – How will negative impacts be mitigated?	Recommendation – How will positive impacts be maximised?
Noise			
Odour			

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Issue	Describe any impacts	Recommendation – How will negative impacts be mitigated?	Recommendation – How will positive impacts be maximised?
Contaminated land e.g. disposal of oil			
Air Quality			
Litter			
Anti-social behaviour			
Healthy Eating			
Working Conditions			
Accidental injury & public safety			
Other issues			

This template has been amended from the Gateshead Hot food Takeaway SPD 2015