



Application criteria

1. General administration of the scheme

1.1 Cumberland Council will manage the Healthier Choices award scheme and reserves the right to alter or amend the criteria of the scheme at its discretion. Any changes will be notified to award holders as soon as is reasonably practicable.

1.2 There is no membership fee for the Healthier Choices award.

1.3 The 'Essential Criteria' which must be met for each award level are clearly stated on the self-assessment application forms. The criteria are not intended to interpret, qualify or replace any laws pertaining to the business.

1.4 Any 'food / catering business' business trading within the boundaries of Cumberland Council is eligible to apply to join the scheme.

1.5 Where there are multiple sites of the same business, each site will need to apply individually.

1.6 Applications to join the scheme should be made to the Healthier Choices team healthierchoices@cumberland.gov.uk who will be responsible for assessing the application.

1.7 A register of Healthier Choices award holders will be maintained by the Healthier Choices team on the Food Cumberland website [Healthier Choices Awards | Food Cumberland](#)

1.8 Any sticker, certificate and/or documentation provided to award holders will remain the property of the Healthier Choices team at Cumberland Council and shall be returned to the team on request or when membership of the scheme ceases.

1.9 If any of the promotional material is lost or defaced, you can obtain one free replacement by contacting the Healthier Choices team healthierchoices@cumberland.gov.uk . Any further stickers or certificates can be purchased at a cost of £2.00 each.

2. Refusal, revocation and suspension of membership

2.1 Cumberland Council Healthier Choices team reserve the right to refuse, revoke or suspend membership upon receipt of information that a business does not satisfy the essential criteria, or casts doubt upon the suitability of any particular business to participate, until such time as a full investigation can be concluded. For example, if the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) score drops below the lowest required level of 3*, or the business is subject to an ongoing criminal investigation by Trading Standards or Environmental Health. If the member's FHRS score drops below the required level for a particular award but appropriate for a lower award, the business will be downgraded.

2.2 Membership will not be refused, revoked, or suspended without good reason, but if it is then the Healthier Choices team will provide the business with a written explanation of the reason for its action.

2.3 Once a decision is made, it will be final; however, any business wishing to complain about a decision to refuse, revoke or suspend membership should do so by writing to the Chair of the Food Cumberland Partnership at Cumberland Council foodpartnership@cumberland.gov.uk .

Full details of Cumberland Council's corporate complaints procedure can be obtained by visiting [How to make a complaint | Cumberland Council](#) or contacting the Healthier Choices team healthierchoices@cumberland.gov.uk.

3. Responsibilities of scheme members

3.1 Businesses must comply with all trading standards / environmental health legislation and all civil law obligations relating to their business.

3.2 A change in ownership of a business must be immediately notified to the Healthier Choices team healthierchoices@cumberland.gov.uk so that a further assessment can be made against the essential criteria.

3.3 Businesses must notify the Healthier Choices team healthierchoices@cumberland.gov.uk of any convictions or current legal proceedings relating to matters which might impact on their suitability for membership of the scheme.

3.4 Award holders will receive a certificate and window sticker which must be displayed in a prominent customer-facing position on the premises receiving the award. They must not be displayed on any other premises.

3.5 Award holders may use documentation and the logo relating to the scheme, in accordance with copyright regulations and relevant national advertising and display code of practice, in the following ways:

- on business documentation
- on business premises
- in other advertising media.

3.6 On ceasing membership of the scheme, all references to the scheme including references to membership, use of the logo, signs on business premises, business documentation and any form of advertising must be removed, obliterated, or otherwise negated immediately. Failure to do this could constitute an offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

3.7 Businesses must not state or otherwise imply that they, or their activities, are “approved” by Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Cumberland Council Healthier Choices or by any other partner agency.

3.8 All staff should be trained, or be in the process of training, to the level of competence necessary for the efficient performance of the tasks regularly required of them. This should include their legal obligations and responsibilities.

4 Publicity

4.1 Cumberland Healthier Choices team will maintain a register of award holders on the Food Cumberland website [Healthier Choices Awards | Food Cumberland](#) and will promote the award holders across its social media platforms, which may include photographs of the premises or staff members, and/or images of the business branding.

4.2 Cumberland Healthier Choices team will undertake various promotional activities throughout the year and will display Healthier Choices posters and leaflets in places of public interest across the council area, in order to promote the scheme.

For further information about the scheme please contact the Healthier Choices team healthierchoices@cumberland.gov.uk.

Alternatively, please see the information on the Food Cumberland Partnership website - [Healthier Choices Awards | Food Cumberland](#)