

**ANNUAL UPDATE FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH TRADING STANDARDS**

*To:* **Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **12 September 2017**

*From:* **Graham Hughes, Executive Director of Economy, Transport and Environment**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To update the Committee in the form of an annual report on the work being delivered for the County Council by the newly merged Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards Service.**

*Recommendation:* **The Committee is invited to comment on any aspect of the service being delivered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.**

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## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 Cambridgeshire County Council's Trading Standards Service merged with Peterborough City Council's Trading Standards Service to become 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards', overseen by Peterborough City Council's Head of Regulatory Services. This followed a unanimous resolution to approve this merger at the January meeting of this Committee.
- 1.2 It has been agreed that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards bring an annual update report to this Committee to keep Members informed of its activities, and to provide the opportunity for Members to steer priorities and direction of the service within Cambridgeshire. **Appendix 1** lists the statutes for which the service is responsible and **Appendix 2** is the annual report.

## 2 MERGER UPDATE

- 2.1 The implementation of the shared Trading Standards service has been swift, with Cambridgeshire County Council staff TUPE transferred to Peterborough City Council and the newly merged management team now working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough teams to deliver the statutory function. Monthly tactical tasking meetings are taking place, directing resources at problem areas and looking at Intelligence from across both authority areas. A joint Service Plan has been produced and joint statutory Food and Feed plans have been agreed; subscription costs have been halved, and officers from both office bases have been providing much needed resilience for larger operations.
- 2.2 Whilst the benefits and opportunities have been maximised through this arrangement, the service provided to residents and local businesses has remained unaltered, with Cambridgeshire officers continuing to be based in Cambourne, serving the needs of Cambridgeshire residents and businesses.
- 2.3 The Shared Service is overseen by an Officer Panel, with Cambridgeshire County Council represented by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Management and Operations. At the first Panel meeting in June the draft Service Plan was approved. This is now published on the Council's webpages [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/trading](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/trading).
- 2.4 For many years Cambridgeshire Trading Standards had been a leading authority in terms of positive regulation and cutting red tape, which was recognised previously by the award of Beacon status. The newly merged service is committed to continuing to champion this approach, working to help businesses get things right first time, rather than dealing with compliance issues further down the line, recognising that this approach supports growth and commercial decision making. In contrast the Service takes a hard line approach to deliberate or reckless breaches of the law in order to maintain a level playing field for legitimate businesses and protect local consumers.
- 2.5 The Service recognises the importance of partnership working to maximise the Service's impact. Many of the matters Trading Standards investigate are complex in nature, cutting across service and geographical boundaries. The Service is part of a strong East of England Trading Standards Authorities Group, which is represented on the board of National Trading Standards. The Service has been shortlisted for its impact locally,

regionally and nationally in the Association for Performance Service Excellence Awards, this being one of two shortlisted submissions this year.

### **3 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

Sections 1-3 of the annual report highlight the importance of this work to the local economy.

#### **Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

Section 4 of the annual report highlights the importance of this work in protecting people's health and safety.

#### **Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

Sections 5 and 6 of the annual report highlight the important of this work in supporting and protecting vulnerable people.

### **4 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The annual report highlights future service demand pressures, however the 2017/2018 budget will cover service delivery costs during this period.

#### **4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category. Contractual implications were considered before the implementation of the Shared Service. The annual report does not result in any new implications.

#### **4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category. Legal implications and risks were considered before the implementation of the Shared Service. The annual report does not result in any new implications.

#### **4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.7 Public Health Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Officer Clearance</b>
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Sarah Heywood
<b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	No N/A Name of Officer:
<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Fiona McMillan
<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	No N/A Name of Officer:

<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Eleanor Bell
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	No N/A Name of Officer:
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	