

Meeting: Policy Development and Decision Group (Joint Operations Team)

Date: 18 January 2017

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Transformation Project - Trading Standards Shared Service

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? 1 April 2017

Executive Lead Contact Details: Terry Manning, Executive Lead for Environment, 01803 207064, terry.manning@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Steve Cox, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial), 01803 208029, steve.cox@torbay.gov.uk

1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 The proposal is to transfer the current Torbay Council Trading Standards service to Devon County Council to join the existing Devon and Somerset Trading Standards partnership, run by Devon County Council.
- 1.2 The current service consists of 4.4 FTE, and undertakes many statutory functions on behalf of Torbay Council.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 There is no resilience with the current team; therefore it is becoming increasingly difficult for the service to meet Torbay Council's statutory obligations. In light of continuing austerity, as with all services, there is the potential that it may reduce further in the future, therefore amplifying the current situation and making it even more important that a long term solution is identified.
- 2.3 Transferring the service to Devon County Council, will give the service resilience and consistency so providing the residents of Torbay with better and future proofed services.
- 2.4 The current size of the Devon and Somerset Trading Standards Partnership allows innovation and prevention to form part of their work, so in time reducing the demands on the service. They already achieve 12% of their budget through income and this will increase in time, supported by the new market of Torbay.

2.5 The work of the Devon and Somerset Trading Standards Partnership is managed by a Board of the representative authorities. Becoming a part of the partnership means that the Council will receive two spaces on the Board. It is recommended that there be dual Member and Officer representation, with the Executive Lead for Environments and the Assistant Director of Community and Customer Services, being the Council's representatives.

2.6 Although there is no net financial savings and some limited one off costs to the Council, this will achieve service resilience and enable scarce management resources to be targeted elsewhere.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1 That the Trading Standards service be transferred to Devon County Council from the 1 April 2017 (or as soon as practicable afterwards) with the Assistant Director (Community and Customer Services) being given delegated authority to give effect to the transfer.

3.2 That the Chief Executive be recommended to appoint the Assistant Director and the Executive Lead for Environment as the Councils representative on the Devon and Somerset Trading Standards Partnership Board in accordance with paragraph 1.21 of the Officer Scheme of Delegation.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Background Documents

None