

REGENERATION AND LIVEABILITY PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

25 July 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Sylvia Pinkney, Consumer Services Manager
Sarah Scarr, Landscape Planning and Conservation Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

4. Trading Standards Service Plan 2008/09 (*Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection*)

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To consider the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2008/09 which is a requirement under the national performance framework for trading standards.

Issues for Consideration

The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform National performance framework for trading standards provides guidance and information on how local authority enforcement service plans should be structured and what they should contain. Key areas of enforcement are covered while allowing for the inclusion of locally defined objectives. The Trading Standards Service Plan takes into account these guidance requirements and had been updated to reflect last year's performance. Details were given of various issues including the number of programmed trading standards inspections and partnership working with local agencies. Particular attention was focused on staffing problems within the department. The Consumer Services Manager advised that this was not a problem unique to Hartlepool as there was a national shortage of Trading Standards Officers. At the current time there were two Trading Standards Officer vacancies with one these temporarily downgraded to a Technical

Officer post and filled by a student Trading Standards Officer.

During 2008/08 resources would be focused on dealing with the high priority areas of age related products, product safety and rogue traders. With regard to age related products Trading Standards were taking a proactive approach with police particularly on the issue of adults buying age restricted products for children. Fixed penalty notices had been issued on two individuals recently for this offence. The Portfolio Holder urged that officers do more to promote positive results in this area.

A copy of the service plan was attached as an appendix to the report.

Decision

That the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2008/09 be approved.

5. Headland Conservation Area Advisory Committee *(Director of Regeneration and Planning Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To provide information on the recently formed Headland Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

Issues for Consideration

In April 2006 the Portfolio Holder agreed to the setting up of a conservation area advisory committee for the Headland. It was felt appropriate to wait until the planned appraisal of the Headland Conservation Area was completed before convening an advisory committee. Subsequently at a recent meeting between Ward Councillors and representatives of the Parish Council potential membership was agreed as follows:

- Eight resident representatives (individuals living and working in the area)
- One Parish Council representative
- One Ward Councillor
- One representative from the Headland History Group
- One representative from another local interest group (interest had been indicated from the Friends of Beaconsfield Square and the Friends of Croft Gardens)

The first meeting had taken place on Thursday 24th July. Members had requested more information as to the necessary differences between an independent group and a committee which was part of the Council structure. Legal advice would be sought in this matter before updates were taken back to the Committee.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that his only concern was that there should be links between the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Headland Conservation Area Advisory Committee. This would ensure there was consistency in the recommendations made by both committees and it would eliminate the potential for conflicting decisions.

Decision

That the report be noted.

P DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 29th July 2008