

# **ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

24 April 2006

**Present:**

Councillor Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Resources and Review)  
Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection and Housing  
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **26. Adult And Community Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 - 2008/09** *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

The Departmental Plan for Adult and Community Services Department for the period 2006/07 to 2008/09 was submitted for the Portfolio Holder's consideration.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report outlined the key content of the Departmental Plan detailing the vision for the department, key objectives and performance indicators. This was the first three-year plan for the new department which would be updated annually. Quarterly progress reports would be submitted to the Portfolio Holder. Some minor amendments still needed to be made and it was proposed that the final document will be published at the end of the week.

**Decision**

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the proposed Departmental Plan.

## **27. Consumer Direct** *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the introduction of a regional (North East) Consumer Advice helpline called 'Consumer Direct'.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

Consumer Direct is a Government-backed national consumer advice service. Consumer Direct North East is part of the third phase of a national roll out. Consumer Direct is to be a single, widely publicised, national 0845 helpline telephone number, providing consumers with a high quality and easily accessible advice service across the UK, together with a national website and email service. The North East Chief Executive's Advisory Group (CEAG) supported Consumer Direct being carried out in the North East and the location of the call centre at Redcar & Cleveland. The Head of Public protection and Housing did, however, that this new service may affect the future of the Council's contract with the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **28. Regional Metrology And Testing Services** *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

### **Purpose of report**

The report provided information on the review of metrology and testing services in Tees Valley, Tyne & Wear and Durham.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

At the request of the Regional Chief Executives Group, work has been carried out to investigate the provision of metrology and testing services in the region and to look at possible closer collaboration. The most promising area for closer collaboration is to investigate the feasibility of joint management, joint working and the sharing of best practice between the Tees Valley, Tyne & Wear and Durham facilities and the Public Analyst. An independent consultant has been engaged to investigate and make recommendations on the possible benefits that could be achieved from closer collaboration in the provision of these services. Work has now commenced, with a final report due at the end of June, 2006.

**Decision**

That the report be noted.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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