

REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

24 September 2018

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Kevin Cranney (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook, Shane Moore and Leisa Smith

Also Present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 Councillor Ann Marshall was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Jim Lindridge and Councillor Carl Richardson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Paddy Brown

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Sylvia Pinkney, Head of Public Protection
Chris Parkin, Head of Finance, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Paddy Brown and Jim Lindridge.

17. Declarations of Interest

None

18. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2018

Received

19. Health and Safety Service Plan 2018/19 *(Assistant Director Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key decision

Correction –
Councillor
Mike Young
also in
attendance

Purpose of report

To consider the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2018/19, which was a requirement under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Head of Public Protection reported that the Health and Safety Service Plan 2018/19, submitted as an appendix to the report, had been updated to reflect last year's performance. The Plan detailed the service priorities for 2018/19 and highlighted how these priorities would be addressed.

During 2017/18 the service completed health and safety interventions in a total of 179 premises. In addition officers had undertaken a range of interventions which involved 5 revisits to monitor compliance, working with 40 new businesses during the year, 378 enforcement visits to assess compliance with smoke free legislation, a proportion of which were carried out in conjunction with health and safety interventions. Promotional/campaign work had been undertaken in relation to the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme and work would continue on the Better Businesses for All Initiative, the Tattoo Hygiene Scheme, the Save our Skins Campaign as well as sampling programmes, details of which were included in the report.

Further detailed information was provided in relation to the performance of the service in terms of response times to complaints, visits to premises and accident notifications. It was noted that during 2017/18 no legal proceedings had been undertaken. However, one improvement notice had been served, details of which were provided. A number of local priorities had been identified for the coming year which would be addressed during contact with businesses, including food inspections and licensing visits, details of which were set out in the report. In particular, the service would target resources effectively using a range of interventions, including providing advice to businesses.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report, the Chair commended the initiative of Better Business for All. The Head of Public Protection responded to queries by Members in relation to topics covered during the health and safety interventions. Clarification was provided regarding the support and advice provided to new businesses, business engagement arrangements, the Better Business for All Initiative, the re-inspection process, the processes in place for managing complaints and the links between complaints and identifying future intervention programmes.

In response to concerns expressed in relation to the 35% failure rate of tanning salons, who failed to meet the requirements in terms of equipment, Members were advised of the background to the potential reasons for failure and it was noted that businesses who had failed the inspection

process had been provided with advice and the equipment had been re-tested. By the end of the initiative all sun beds were compliant. It was highlighted that these salons would be revisited in 2018/19 to re-assess compliance levels. Assurances were sought that robust checks of this type were in place in relation to the private hire of sun beds to which the Head of Public Protection advised that in addition to the health and safety checks, carried out by the Public Protection Team, Trading Standards also carried out test purchase visits, further information of which could be provided following the meeting.

With regard to body modifications, a query was raised in terms of whether any progress had been made either, locally or nationally, to address unregulated practices. The Head of Public Protection commented on the work that was ongoing in Hartlepool and indicated that whilst the powers available to local authorities to address such practices were limited, the team continued to work with businesses with a view to improving health and safety and infection control practices.

Decision

- (i) That the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2018/19 be approved.
- (ii) That further information be provided following the meeting regarding the inspection processes of Trading Standards in relation to private hire sun beds.

20. Trading Standards Service Plan 2018/19 *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key decision

Purpose of report

To approve the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2018/19.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Head of Public Protection reported that the annual service plan, submitted as an appendix to the report, detailed the previous performance of the Service, the main challenges facing it and a plan of work to be undertaken in the forthcoming year. The priority areas for service delivery were set out in detail with the high priority areas being Rogue Traders, Scams and Cons and Product Safety. The service would also look to address Underage Sales, False Description of Goods, Counterfeiting and

Illicit Tobacco, Loan Sharks, Weights and Measures and Misleading Pricing.

The Head of Public Protection highlighted the department's work on social media and e-crime, no cold call zones, protecting the vulnerable and other enforcement work. Reference was made to the work undertaken by officers in relation to tests carried out on a store's compliance with age restricted sales legislation and the use of underage volunteers to determine whether children would be allowed to use "Over 18" gaming machines in pubs. It was found that two of the pubs allowed the children to use the machines without challenge. A further pub allowed the children on the machines for several minutes before they were challenged and only one pub actually stopped the children before they had the opportunity to gamble.

The Head of Public Protection responded to queries raised by Members in relation to the "no cold call zone" arrangements.

The Chair welcomed the priorities to protect the most vulnerable and was pleased to note the recent public health grant funding that had been secured until June 2018 to fund an officer post to develop a series of measures aimed at helping people to help themselves and to educate and inform agencies and organisations who could provide support.

Reference was made to shops that had recently faced legal action in respect of counterfeit tobacco being persistently supplied from their premises and, given that premises of this type often re-opened under new management, emphasis was placed upon the need for spot checks to be undertaken to ensure such practices were not continuing. In response to clarification sought, the Committee was advised of the test purchase and seizure arrangements in relation to underage sales of alcohol.

A Member commented on the benefits of a recent trading standards presentation that he had received at Greatham and suggested that elements of that presentation be presented via video footage and be publicised as widely as possible.

In concluding the debate Members supported the priorities identified for 2018/19.

Decision

- (i) That the Trading Standards Service Plan for 2018/19 be approved.
- (ii) That the Trading Standards Presentation, referred to above, be widely publicised.

21. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

22. Any Other Business – Special Meeting

The Chair commented that he was keen to hold a special meeting in February or March 2019 to seek the Committee's views on the future economic strategy for the town and to enable Members to feed into priorities for the following year.

Decision

That a Special Meeting be held on Wednesday 6 February at 1.00 pm subject to the availability of the Director.

23. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 22 October 2018 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 2.40 pm

H MARTIN

INTERIM CHIEF SOLICITOR

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