

19 July 2018

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**UPDATE ON KEY TRADING STANDARDS AND COMMUNITIES MATTERS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To:
 - update the Committee on key Trading Standards and Communities matters;
 - provide the quarterly update on the Commercial Performance of the Service;
 - approve the awarding of funding to two additional applications made under the Local Improvement Scheme;

Information**Trading Standards****Income Progress.**

2. As Members will recall, revised targets were set for the Service at the December 2017 Committee. The figures agreed for increases in net income are set out below.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	TOTAL
Reduction in net cost	£66k	£122k	£132k	£320k

3. So far this year, new income secured already stands at £225k which is positive news. Because income streams vary year from year to year, it is expected that £93k of income achieved last year will not occur again this year. In other words, at this stage it is felt that the service will achieve at least the £132k target for this year without winning any further new work.
4. **Illicit Tobacco** - Trading Standards Officers continue to respond to complaints and intelligence received regarding the sale and distribution of illicit tobacco and tobacco related products. Recently in the Stapleford area, Officers seized 5,400 cigarettes and 285g of hand rolling tobacco with a value of £7,200. Prosecutions are now pending against the shop worker, delivery driver and shop leaseholder.

5. Warnings have also been given to two shops in the Newark area, and following interventions, one shop has since closed.
6. **Chartered Trading Standards Institute Symposium** - Between 4th and 6th June, the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham hosted the annual National Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) Symposium. This is a flagship event in the Trading Standards profession's calendar, and brings together not only those involved in managing and delivering the service but also attracts a host of experts from across the consumer protection spectrum.
7. Sessions run during the 3 days highlighted examples of excellence, innovation and good practice amongst Trading Standards Services nationwide.
8. To celebrate this work, this year the CTSI has produced a guide aimed at decision makers to assist members and senior officers understand the role that their Trading Standards Services play in protecting communities and assisting reputable businesses. A hard copy of this guide is available for Committee members.
9. During the event, the Trading Standards East Midlands (TSEM) Heads of Service held a workshop for members and senior officers. The nature of today's markets mean that unscrupulous traders have a wide impact. The event gave TSEM the opportunity to showcase the benefits and importance of regional collaborative approaches.
10. During this session, the challenges facing services were highlighted and examples of good practice and significant achievements shared. These included examples of work in relation to the Regional Investigations Team, tobacco enforcement and product safety enforcement at East Midlands Airport .
11. **Doorstep Crime** – From 1st October 2017 to 31st March 2018, 52 individuals were provided with support from Trading Standards Officers in relation to doorstep crime. A total of 124 incidents were reported to the Service during this time.
12. An assessment of shows that 1 in 2 victims live alone, with 3 out of 4 being repeat victims. Loneliness is a key factor for many of the victims and Trading Standards Officers have visited each victim and been able to gain support from other agencies.
13. Recent examples include:
 - A 92 year old lost thousands of pounds to a doorstep crime incident. He was visited by staff, and was found to be increasingly lonely and isolated. Officers identified this as an important factor in the case, so referred him to a befriending scheme, a local luncheon club, and made referrals to other agencies. This showed how important it is to combat the feelings of loneliness and isolation to make it less likely older adults fall victim.
 - Officers have also been assisting an elderly consumer and his family, who, despite dementia, has been able to continue to live independently. This consumer was recently visited by rogue roofers asking for money. Fortunately and the consumer was able to inform his family that he had received further unannounced visits and measures could be put in place to protect him.
14. **Legal Update - Doorstep Crime** – In May 2017, an individual appeared in the Mansfield Magistrates court charged with offences of fraud to the value of £26,400. There was initially one victim in this case, who the Authority alleged had been defrauded by representations that she needed certain work carrying out on her property. The defendant pleaded not guilty, and the case was listed for trial on the 2nd January 2018, due to some technical issues with the courts the matter had been put back until the 25th June 2018. Since this time a further matter has arisen against the

defendant, who now faces a further charge along with a co-accused. The trial has now moved to 10 December 2018.

15. **Justin Marriott** – Marriott appeared in the Crown Court on the 18th January, charged with the possession of counterfeit electrical items and clothing. He pleaded guilty to the charges, and was sentenced to 7 months in prison suspended for 2 years, with 150 hours unpaid work. A proceeds of crime investigation is continuing.
16. **Unsafe cigarettes** – A trial was listed in the Nottingham Crown Court on the 5th March for 3 defendants who have been charged with offences of supplying counterfeit and dangerous cigarettes from the shop in Beeston. Due to lack of court time, the trial has been put back until August 2018.
17. **Alleged fake jewellery sellers** – two online sellers are due in the Nottingham Crown Court on 8th June 2018. They are charged with offences of selling mis described platinum and diamond rings and ear rings. This is the first hearing in the Crown Court, and a plea is yet to be entered.
18. **Doorstep Crime** – a further defendant is in court for offences in respect of targeting the elderly for work that is poor, and in some cases, unnecessary. This matter is listed for an initial hearing in the Nottingham Crown Court on the 19th June 2018, at which time the defendant will enter a plea.

Communities

19. **Establishment of the new function** – Following Committee approval on 8th March 2018, the Council's new Communities function was established on 1st April 2018. The new function sits with the Trading Standards and Communities Service within the Communities and Place Division of the Place Department.
20. This new function integrates the Authority's community and voluntary sector function with the community safety function. This will improve effectiveness and efficiency through forging closer working relationships, and by increasing support to communities to be more resilient, through encouraging active community support, volunteering, and focusing on delivering specific outcomes.
21. A strategy and framework to support these ambitions is currently being developed, and will be brought to this Committee for approval later on this year.
22. The Team is providing a specialist resource to support the delivery of the Council's Local Improvement Scheme, and it's lead responsibility for the co-ordination of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. Additionally, it also creates a pool of flexible general resource to deliver the outcomes required by the Council for supporting Nottinghamshire residents.
23. **Local Improvement Scheme** - Following Committee approval on 17th May 2018 to fund 201 projects across the county, all 408 groups who made applications have now been communicated with to inform them of the decision, advise them of the next steps, and offering further support where appropriate.
24. During this process, it has transpired that two organisations had submitted applications on the closing date for applications that were not considered during the main assessment process. These applications have now been considered in line with the Council's rigorous assessment process.
25. The applications outlined below are recommended for approval by this Committee, subject to providing the relevant additional information / assurances required, as they clearly demonstrate contributions to delivering on the LIS funding priorities.

26. These applications are:

- Misterton Parish Council: recommended £10,000 in capital funding for 2018/19, to resurface the sports field car park to make the facility more accessible to the local community and visitors to Misterton.
- Nottingham Community Transport: recommended £16,000 in revenue funding per year, 2018 to 2021, as a contribution towards the running costs of a community transport service to provide accessible transport links in Radcliffe, Bingham and Cotgrave. The service aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness for those who find it difficult to access other transport services and would provide a service to local community and voluntary groups in the evenings and at weekends.

27. **Modern Slavery** - The County Council has a key role to play in tackling modern slavery, including identifying and supporting victims and working in partnership locally. In partnership with the University of Nottingham's Impact Leaders' Initiative on Modern Slavery in the Direct Payment Supply Chain, the Communities Team are co-ordinating two workshops in the coming months to discuss the procurement work being explored through this programme.

28. From these workshops, it is intended that a template of activities in relation to reducing the risk of modern slavery in the direct payment supply chain will be developed. This will be significant in being able to influence our commissioning processes accordingly.

29. **NottsWatch** - The team are working in partnership with NottsWatch to develop a fit for purpose approach to helping communities to be more resilient and encourage greater neighbourhood connections. One example would be by adopting a community organising approach to supporting good neighbourhood schemes.

30. **Age Friendly Nottinghamshire** - the pilot 'Take a Seat Campaign' was successfully launched in Mansfield and Beeston this spring. The campaign aims to encourage local retailers to provide a seat in their shops for older people to take a rest so encouraging older to venture out so reducing isolation and loneliness. Over 100 businesses have signed up to the campaign to date.

31. **The Great War – One Hundred Year Commemorations 2018** - The Team are involved in the planning of a wide variety of activities that support legacy projects to ensure that local landmarks and events are recorded and highlighted for future generations. The aim is to bring the Past, Present and Future to life by encouraging ceremonial events, cultural experiences and educational activities.

32. The programme starts at County Hall on Monday 25th June, with the combined Armed Forces Day Flag Raising outdoor event, and the launch of the Victoria Cross recipient display in the Assembly Hall. In honour of the RAF100, Air Force Cadets will lead the flag raising event. Living descendants of the six Victoria Cross recipients have been invited to attend the launch to tell their story and bring along family ephemerae. The display will travel the county visiting 7 local libraries, Rufford Abbey Country Park, Southwell Minster and the Royal Concert Hall).

33. Two events have been planned at Rufford Abbey Country Park.

- Wednesday 11th July 2018 sees 18 local museums, history societies and historical groups set up a pop up museum to tell the rich history of Nottinghamshire life during the Great War. Exhibits will include: Newark Mayoresses, Chilwell canaries, home front, fashion and textiles, shops and rationing, school life, genealogy, Nottinghamshire mines and mining, stretchers, trolleys and blood, artefacts relating to the horse in WW1, contemporary handcars, and fighting fires.

- The second event is planned for Friday 17th August 2018. This will be a family picnic style outdoor screening of Steven Spielberg's film adaption of Michael Morpurgo's novel 'War Horse'. There will be 650 free tickets available, bookable through Eventbrite.

34. RAF Syerston will host RAF100 AeroSpace Camp, Monday 20th to Friday 24th August 2018, predominantly for Air Cadets across the Country. Special permission has been sought and granted so that Nottinghamshire schools and youth clubs can attend this event. Young people can expect to be involved in a wide variety of activities that fit in with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) agenda.

35. The Aviation Skills Partnership will run an aviation masterclass, and there will be a chance to interact with various technology platforms. SERCO, an RAF partner, will run a session working in a hangar. Also included is a chance to build a glider and fly a simulator. Other planned events are:

- 3rd October 2018: Sgt William Johnson VC 100TH Commemoration event, Worksop
- 4th November 2018: Britten's War Requiem Concert, Royal Concert Hall
- 6th November 2018: County Commemoration Service and Armed Forces Covenant Signing, Southwell Minster
- 8th November 2018: Commemorative football matches, City Ground and Meadow Lane
- 11th November: Beacons of Light, County Hall

Other Options Considered

36. **Local Improvement Scheme** – consideration was given to not considering the two bids, which is deemed to be unfair as the bids were submitted before the deadline but were not received due to technical issues.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

37. **Local Improvement Scheme** – the two bids are recommended for funding as they scored highly when using the agreed scoring criteria.

Statutory and Policy Implications

38. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

39. The Service makes significant contributions to reducing crime and disorder as outlined in the information provided in the body.

Financial Implications

40. **Local Improvement Scheme** – on the 17th May 2018, this Committee approved applications to the Local Improvement Scheme totalling £2,244,246, against the total revenue and budget allocations of £2,190,482 in the Committee's capital and revenue budget. If the Committee approves the two

applications recommend in this report, the maximum total committed would rise to £2,270,246. It is not anticipated that actual expenditure incurred will exceed the total budget available.

Human Resources Implications

41. None.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) Ratifies the updates given regarding key Trading Standards and Community safety matters;
- 2) Ratifies the update given regarding the progress of raising additional income in the Service; and
- 3) Approves the proposals to award Local Improvement Scheme funding of £10k Capital Funding to Misterton Parish Council for 2018/19, and £16k p.a. Revenue Funding per year, 2018/19 to 2020/21, to Nottingham Community Transport.

Derek Highton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mark Walker, Group Manager Trading Standards & Communities x 72173

Constitutional Comments [SLB 11/06/2018]

42. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [RWK 11/06/2018]

43. The financial implications are set in paragraph 40 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All