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| meeting | <b>Cabinet</b>      |                    |
| date    | <b>25 July 2007</b> | agenda item number |

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### **TRADING STANDARDS ANIMAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To seek approval for the Trading Standards Animal Health and Welfare Framework Agreement with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for 2007/08.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### Background

2. The County Council has the responsibility for the enforcement of a wide range of animal health and welfare legislation. This legislation is very complex with the potential impact of non-compliance being significant particularly in the area of disease control.
3. The Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001 and the more recent instances of Avian Flu in East Anglia have highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the Local Authority and DEFRA in the area of Animal Health and Welfare. The value of local and central government services working in partnership during such demanding times has been clearly demonstrated.
4. A consistent approach to the enforcement of animal health and welfare legislation throughout the country is seen to be essential. With this in mind DEFRA developed a framework of enforcement to provide agreement between DEFRA and local authorities to ensure the delivery of effective animal health services.
5. The objectives of the framework are to :-
  - improve commitment between central and local government
  - introduce a more risk based and focused approach to enforcement
  - achieve greater consistency
  - develop best practice
  - aid planning
  - produce better management information
  - raise the profile of animal health work

##### The Framework Agreement

6. The Framework Agreement attached as appendix 1 sets out the way in which animal health and welfare legislation will be enforced within Nottinghamshire in 2007/08.
7. It has been drawn up in consultation with the Divisional Veterinary Manager and

considers both national and local needs. Areas of work contained within the Framework have been prioritised according to veterinary risk.

8. The Service continues to claim additional funding from DEFRA for additional duties undertaken post foot and mouth. The Framework Agreement together with supporting financial data provide justification for the additional funding in this area of the Service's work.
9. Successful implementation of the framework is intended to deliver:
  - effective disease control
  - a well educated and compliant farming industry
  - sound welfare practices
  - a consistent approach
10. The Service's animal health team currently operate from its County House, Mansfield office. The 5 officers have a countywide remit to enforce the provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare Legislation.

### Risk Assessment

11. Situations which could lead to the work set out in the Framework Agreement not being achieved have been considered in the light of business continuity and the agreement within East Midland Trading Standards Services to share resources in times of emergency.
12. Should there not be a full complement of officers in the team for any length of time or should a disease situation require extra officers this will be addressed by calling upon other staff within the service with animal health enforcement experience and if necessary by calling upon appropriately qualified officers from other authorities within the East Midlands region.
13. If access to the Animal Health Team's base and its associated equipment is lost then the team would transfer to another Trading Standards office within the county where computer records access is available and specialist equipment would be supplied by other Authorities within the East Midlands.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities personnel, Crime and Disorder, and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

### **Recommendations**

15. That Cabinet approve the Trading Standards Animal Health and Welfare Framework Agreement with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for 2007/08.

**Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Partnerships**

**Legal Services Comments [HD 9.7.2007]**

The decision recommended falls within the delegation to Cabinet.

**Financial Comments of the Strategic Director (Resources) (RWK 20.6.07)**

None.

**Background Papers Available for Inspection**

None.

**Electoral Divisions Affected**

All.