

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting11th March 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

EIT Review of Regulatory Services - Report of Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented Cabinet with the outcomes of the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of Regulatory Services undertaken by the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee. Council services covered within the review were: Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing, Development Services, Building Control, and the mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs).

The review formed part of a three year programme of EIT reviews covering all services provided by the Council. The programme aimed to ensure that all services were reviewed in a systematic way to ensure that they were provided in the most efficient manner, provided value for money and identified opportunities for service improvements and transformation.

Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented, detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Trading Standards develop additional resources to enable residents to contact organisations direct when they seek redress as consumers, and that this should include the development of internet, leaflet and letter template provision.

2. Following notification to service users/customers, the Council introduce the schedule of fees for the mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation that is set out at Appendix 1 of the Committee's report.

3. The Council works in conjunction with partner authorities to undertake a review of the operation and arrangements of the River Tees Port Health Authority in order to achieve associated savings.

4. The Council undertakes to examine the opportunities for partnering with other local authorities in relation to all regulatory functions covered within this review.

5. Increased co-operation should take place between the Building Control and Planning Enforcement sections in order to take advantage of the similar nature of service provision in each.

6. The following options should be considered for implementation if appropriate:

- a) the introduction of fees for pre-application planning advice, in response to potential recommendations in the Killian Pretty Review of Planning;
- b) the opportunity to provide specific regulatory services on behalf of other authorities and that this should be reviewed annually.

7. If further savings need to be achieved in future, the following options should be considered and prioritised by Cabinet against other service efficiencies:

- a) introduction of fees for the treatment of public health pests;
- b) outsourcing of services to other providers;
- c) discontinuation of the out of hours noise service;
- d) discontinuation of the enhanced animal welfare services;
- e) discontinuation of the food advisory service;
- f) discontinuation of the pest treatment service (NB. 7a or 7f – not both);
- g) reduction of the service provided by the Consumer Advice Centre or discontinuation of the Centre.

8. That the issues raised by the taxi trade in relation to the value for money of the taxi licensing function be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

3. Reasons for the Decision

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee has undertaken a review of regulatory services with a view to identifying options for future service provision that deliver efficiency savings and where possible sustain and improve high quality outcomes for local residents.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Friday, 19th March 2010

Proper Officer
15 March 2010