

**Extract from Q1**

**Legal Services**

Legal support has continued for the various regeneration projects in the Borough, with the addition of securing funding with HCA for the compulsory acquisition of the Kwik Fit site for development as part of the Northshore redevelopment. Property, planning and highways matters continue at high volume and the success of the Shambles and 62 Dovecot Street continue to result in the granting of numerous leases and occupation agreements. A number of significant private sector developments in the borough continue to require legal support for planning and highways issues.

Delivery of work involving more complex contract and procurement issues has also increased such as the proposed High Ropes course at the barrage and ensuring cost certainty in respect of the maintenance of the Newport bridge. This is coupled with the continuing support to major and significant projects such as the Innovation Centre, the Globe and ARCC (probation service) often cutting across a range of legal and commercial issues (including state aid). It is anticipated that these more complex matters will continue to grow as the Council strives to continue to deliver services in an increasingly challenging economic climate requiring new and innovative legal structures through which to deliver them.

Continued legal support has been provided for criminal prosecutions. In particular there have been several high profile cases in relation to food hygiene offences and health and safety matters which have resulted in media attention in the local and national press. Legal support has been provided for policy reviews relating to the Councils licensing functions and in particular reviews of policies in relation to transport licensing, alcohol and entertainment licensing and sex establishment licensing.

Legal support continues to embed the changes to adult social care following implementation of the Care Act in April of this year. Legal support for child protection continues to be a core service.

**Extract from Q2**

**Legal Services**

Legal support has continued for the various regeneration projects in the Borough, including ongoing residential property acquisitions at Victoria and the acquisition of additional land/property to progress the scheme even further, and the progression of options to secure the compulsory acquisition of the Kwik Fit site for development as part of the Northshore redevelopment. Property, planning and highways matters continue at high volume. Significant property legal work was involved in the development of the high ropes course at the Tees Barrage. The High Court appeal relating to the Secretary of State's refusal of planning permission for residential development at Low Lane, Ingleby Barwick was held and the decision remitted to the Secretary of State to re-determine. Legal support continues to be provided regarding the outcome of that case. A number of significant private sector, and public/private sector, developments in the Borough continue to require legal support for planning and highways issues, for example the proposed residential developments at Wynyard, Yarm and Ingleby Barwick. Legal support was provided at a strategic level for the development of the proposed allocation of land at Harrowgate Lane/Yarm Back Lane as a housing site in the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan Document.

Legal support continues to embed the changes to adult social care following implementation of the Care Act in April of this year. There has been an increase in cases in the Court of

Protection particularly concerning deprivation of liberty and it is anticipated that the increase in volume will continue. There has also been an increase in requests for disclosure of information by the police in cases of alleged child abuse and linked criminal and care proceedings. Legal support for child protection continues to be a core service.

Continued legal support has been provided in connection with prosecutions brought by the Council in the Magistrates and Crown Courts. There have been a number of high profile criminal prosecutions which have led to the seizure and forfeiture of large amounts of counterfeit clothing, cigarettes and other products. Legal support has also been given to the Environmental Health team concerning food poisoning outbreaks and in relation to criminal prosecutions for unhygienic food premises. Legal support continues to be given for policy reviews relating to the Councils licensing functions and in particular reviews of policies in relation to transport licensing, alcohol and entertainment licensing and sex establishment licensing. Support has also been given for a number of civil cases which have been pursued in the County Court in relation to businesses and traders who have breached consumer protection regulations.

Linked to the Big Picture programme and the need to provide services more cost effectively and efficiently and with a growing recognition of emerging commercial opportunities, the Legal Service has continuing to support the Council to explore new ways of operating which increasingly include collaboration with other partners, whether public or private sector. This is seen in the expansion in the delivery of commercial legal work involving complex projects, joint ventures, state aid and high value/complexity procurements, including a joint venture within the Victoria Estate development , a new hotel development (again possibly including a joint venture), the Ingleby Barwick leisure facility and a potential new Stockton crematorium, all places a growing pressure on the service.