

Cabinet



Date of meeting: 15 September 2020
 Title of Report: **Trading Standards Joint Service**
 Lead Member: Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Customer Focus and Community Safety)
 Lead Strategic Director: Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)
 Author: Alex Fry/Sarah Lees
 Contact Email: Alex.fry@plymouth.gov.uk
 Your Reference:
 Key Decision: Yes
 Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report outlines the proposal to create a joint Trading Standards Service for the Heart of the South West area by Plymouth joining with the existing Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service. It provides background information on the role of Trading Standards and outlines the advantages of creating the joint service. It introduces a joint Full Business Case which provides detailed information to assist members in deciding whether or not to proceed.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that:

1. Approval be given for Plymouth to enter into a joint Trading Standards Service with Devon, Somerset and Torbay subject to;
 - (i) the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations in relation to the legal agreement on the principles contained in the business case/cabinet report.
 - (ii) a report authorising the detailed governance arrangements and any necessary proposed amendments to the constitution.
2. The Director for Public Health is authorised to conclude the terms of the legal agreement.

A Heart of the South West joint service offers significant advantages and will bring together the resources, skills and expertise of four authorities in order to meet the significant challenges ahead. Current Trading Standards staffing is at a minimum level and joining to become part of a larger joint service will provide a more resilient model to ensure high-quality service delivery to the people and businesses in the Heart of the South West area.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Maintaining in-house provision of the Trading Standards Service. However, we need to adopt alternative models of service delivery to ensure future resilience for the Trading Standards Service.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

An effective Trading Standards Service contributes to all the key city priorities but especially, growing (supporting business and them from illegal and unfair competition) and caring (contributing to community safety and protecting scam victims and the vulnerable). Likewise, the service contributes to the aims of the Plymouth Plan particularly by ensuring safe communities, reducing inequalities and ensuring economic growth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

There will be initial costs when implementing the merger, including staff time and IT to a maximum of £30,000

It is envisaged that long-term savings can be achieved within a joint service through maximising income generation, economies of scale and the sharing of best practice.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No direct implications although a more resilient service could enable more enforcement of environmental regulations such as energy performance advertising requirements

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

No direct implications

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Proposed Heart of the South West Trading Standards Joint Service							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Joint Full Business Case			x				

Sign off:

Fin	pl.20. 21.78	Leg	lt/622 25/08 0920	Mon Off		HR	KB09 0920	Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 24/08/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Sally Haydon – approved verbally											
Date approved: 24/08/2020											