

Time Commenced – 6.00 pm  
Time Finished – 7.08 pm

## **Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**8 April 2014**

Present: Councillor Pegg (Chair)  
Councillors Dhindsa, Troup, F Winter and Wood

### **66/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes, Jackson, J Khan and MacDonald.

### **67/13 Late Items**

There were no late items.

### **68/13 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **69/13 Call-in**

There were no items

### **70/13 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **71/13 Forward Plan**

No items were requested.

### **72/13 Trading Standards Enforcement Strategy for Illicit Tobacco and Alcohol**

The Board considered a report which stated although part of a wider strategy for tackling counterfeit goods in the city, illicit alcohol and tobacco were the main enforcement priorities for Trading Standards in the medium to long term. The draft strategy set out a plan to combat this form of illicit trading in the city through a programme of sustained enforcement activity, advice to businesses and consumers and partnership working with stakeholders.

The trade in illicit/counterfeit goods had strong links with organised crime and criminal gangs and was a growing problem in the city. Criminals at the top of chains

that smuggled and distributed e.g. illegal tobacco were often involved in other crimes such as drug dealing, money laundering, people trafficking and even terrorism. Young and/or vulnerable people were often targeted by these criminals, exposing them to a variety of high risk situations.

Derby was a known hotspot for sales of illicit tobacco and it was estimated that 1 in 7 cigarettes sold in the city were illicit. Incidents involving the supply of illicit alcohol were also growing locally, regionally and nationally. In Derby, illegal alcohol had been found by Trading Standards for sale at retail outlets on 8 occasions. Some of these products had been found to contain cleaning fluid and other harmful substances. Of the 45 known illicit products on the market, approx. 50% had been found (and seized by Trading Standards) in the city.

A strategy to tackle this escalating problem was therefore urgently required, both to protect consumers and the interests of the majority of local businesses that continue to trade legitimately.

Members of the Board made various suggestions, including working in partnership across both the authority and regionally to tackle enforcement and achieve prosecutions. Members wanted a request to be made to the Local Government Association to see if Trading Standards Officers could be given more powers to tackle enforcement and achieve prosecutions. They also requested that officers investigate ways of expediting prosecutions and licence revocations.

## **Resolved**

- 1. To note the contents of the report and the draft strategy for tackling the sale of counterfeit/illicit goods in the city.**
- 2. To request that regional partnership working opportunities are progressed to tackle enforcement and achieve prosecutions.**
- 3. To request that a more holistic approach to enforcement within the authority is progressed.**
- 4. To request the Local Government Association to pursue greater powers for Trading Standards Officers to assist the Council in tackling enforcement and achieve prosecutions.**
- 5. To request that the possibilities for expediting prosecutions and licence revocations are investigated.**

## **73/13 Work Programme and Topic Reviews**

The Board considered a report which stated that this was the last meeting of the Board for this Municipal Year. There was no work programme to agree at this meeting. The draft work programme for the next Municipal Year would be circulated to Board members prior to the first meeting and amended and agreed as appropriate. The scrutiny officer would aim to agree a full agenda for the first meeting of the new

Municipal Year with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board following approval of constitutional appointments at Council in June 2014.

**Resolved to note the report.**

MINUTES END