

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 SEPTEMBER 2016
TRADING STANDARDS IN NOTTINGHAM
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR RESILIENCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider update on the Council's Trading Standards operations in Nottingham.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider how the Council's Trading Standards Service operates in Nottingham, including its work with partner organisations.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Trading Standards work to protect the public from unfair and unsafe trading practices or if consumers believe a company has broken the law or acted unfairly, then they might be able to report them to Trading Standards.
- 3.2 The Committee will discuss how the Council focusses its Trading Standards Service on enforcement activities and areas where consumers are at most risk.
- 3.3 The Committee is requested to review whether an efficient and effective Trading Standards Service is provided to the most vulnerable communities in Nottingham. The Committee will be aware that local government is experiencing significant reductions in public sector funding and will use the information provided at the Committee to challenge how public services are provided in Nottingham.
- 3.4 Nottingham City Council's Trading Standards Service covers areas such as:
- Businesses and Trading Standards
 - Scams and Cons (how citizens can protect themselves)
 - Doorstep crime and rogue traders
 - Loan sharks
 - Illegal tobacco and the Fake Campaign

What challenges do we face in Nottingham?

- 3.4 Nottingham City Council work in partnership with a range of organisations, including Checkatrade, to provide an approved trader scheme to assist consumers in choosing traders they can trust.

The Committee might want to focus on the following:

- 3.5 Council budgets are being squeezed nationally, inevitably, when reducing the budget of a service, there are associated challenges to face. Are there any areas which are likely to be affected by a reduction in resources?
- 3.6 As other authorities across the country are facing similar budget challenges, is there a mutual benefit in sharing services across boundaries, and if so, does this happen?
- 3.7 Local authorities are being asked to think differently about the way in which they provide services. Is there an income opportunity for the service to provide a commercial aspect to the advice it provides?

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 None.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 None.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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