

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROJECT BRIEF.

REVIEW OF TRADING STANDARDS

1. Background.

This topic was agreed by the Scrutiny Management Panel on 27 November 2009 and formed part of the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's 2009/2010 work programme.

At its informal meeting held on 27 November 2009, the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel agreed that this review would commence at its 18 December 2009 meeting.

2. Objectives of the inquiry.

- To be informed of Trading Standard's current mode of operation and make recommendations for the strategic future direction of the service;
- To investigate whether establishing a separate company would be of value to the Trading Standards Service, and eventually the Council as a whole.
- To investigate whether sharing services or buying in services would represent an effective and value for money option for the service; and
- To be informed of, and if necessary make recommendations for improving, the way the council investigates the sale of counterfeit goods. To take into account the legal, economic and other issues surrounding this crime.

3. Possible witnesses.

- The Trading Standards Manager;
- The Head of the Environment & Public Protection Service;
- Trading Standards Officers;
- Hampshire Constabulary; and
- Residents who have had dealings with Trading Standards.

4. Work plan & proposed dates of future meetings.

- 18 December 2009 - The panel will receive an overview of the service from the Trading Standards Manager and consider/approve it's draft project brief.

5. This is a stage 1 scrutiny review and will be dealt with in three of four meetings. If members feel satisfied that their concerns have been adequately dealt with, a short report will then be prepared either to be presented to the Cabinet or to be included in the twice-yearly scrutiny update to Council. However, if members require a more in-depth review of this issue, a project brief will be prepared for a stage 2 review.