

## **LONDON BOROUGHS OF BRENT AND HARROW**

### **TRADING STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD – 21st MARCH 2006**

### **REPORT NO. 2/06 OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRADING STANDARDS**

#### **FOR INFORMATION**

TITLE OF REPORT: **TRADING STANDARDS BUDGET FOR 2006/2007**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides Members with the latest information concerning the Trading Standards Budget for 2006/2007 together with the implications on service delivery.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That Members consider this report and comment where appropriate.

#### **3.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The whole report concerns the finance of the Trading Standards Service.

#### **4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The budget approved by Brent for 2006/7, provides resources to fund the current establishment, which was reduced by one post in 2005/6 to reflect savings required over two financial years. At the time this report was written, the budget for Harrow had not been confirmed, but unless there are reductions in the budget, there are no staffing implications for Harrow.

#### **5.0 DETAIL**

5.1 At the Trading Standards Advisory Board on 22nd November 2005, Members considered report No.8/05 concerning the Trading Standards Budget for 2006/2007. At that meeting, Members raised concerns that the Service was being presented with many more important areas of work and that there was a danger that current funding levels would not be able to support all this work. Concern was also expressed about the diminishing income and the effect on the Service. The budget for Brent has now been approved at the level outlined in report 8/05. Confirmation of the budget from Harrow, requested in report 8/05, has not been received yet. Members also wished the "Service priorities" outlined in the report to be amended. This has been done.

5.2 This report should be read in conjunction with report No. 8/05, which is attached as Appendix 1. As Harrow has not yet notified the Service of the budget allocation for 2006/7, the budget details in this report in relation to Harrow could be subject to change. A verbal update of Harrow's agreed budget will be given at the Advisory Board meeting.

- 5.3 Brent is providing a total budget of £1,041,869 (which will include all the notional rent for the Trading Standards accommodation). This will provide the same overall level of service delivery as 2005/6, although in order to carry out new legislation a higher prioritisation will have to be given to some work, which will mean other work will not be carried out.
- 5.4 Harrow's budget, to provide the same level of service as this year, would need to be £844,083, and to fund the post kept vacant during 2005/6 as well, to be £876,083, as detailed in report 8/05. As there is no growth, like Brent, a great deal of prioritisation will occur, with some duties taking a lower priority.  
If Harrow approves this amount, the total available budget for the Service would be £1,917,952 as detailed in the attached report.
- 5.5 If the final budget is approved as above, the overall work output will remain the same as this year's. The above will achieve the upper level of each authority's Comprehensive Performance Assessment performance indicators as applied to the Service. The work programme the budget will fund is contained within the Service Operational Plan also on the agenda for this meeting.

## 6.0 **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### 6.1 2006/2007 Budget File.

Any person wishing to inspect the above should contact J Taylor, First Floor, 249 Willesden Lane, London NW2 5JH, telephone 020 8937 5500.

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