



Trading Standards
27 November 2013

**Report from the Head of Trading
Standards**

For Information

Wards affected:
ALL

**Introduction of a Charge Based Regulatory Advice Service
for Businesses**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report was due to be presented at the Joint Advisory Board meeting on 11th July 2013. However, it could not be considered as the meeting was inquorate and, as a result, it is being presented again for consideration by all Board Members.
- 1.2 The attached report concerning the introduction of a Primary Authority Partnership (PAP) scheme and a fee based regulatory business advice service was approved by Brent Council's Executive Committee on 17th June 2013. At the same time, this report was also forwarded to Harrow Officers with a view to obtaining a similar delegation from the London Borough of Harrow's Executive Committee.
- 1.3 As Harrow already operates PAPs for some of its other regulatory services, it is hoped that this report could form the basis of a similar scheme to charge for all business advice, after an initial 'free' period. Members will note that the Brent Executive have approved the provision of a maximum of 7 hours of 'free' to all businesses and LB of Harrow are asked to consider implementing a similar scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members discuss the report and consider obtaining approval from the London Borough of Harrow's Executive Committee to introduce the above mentioned PAP and fee based regulatory advice service for Trading Standards in line with the recommendations contained in the attached report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are a number of financial implications which are explained in further detail within the attached report.

4.0 STAFF IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Should this charge based regulatory advice scheme be adopted, then there are potential staffing implications which are directly dependant on the level of demand for this service from local businesses.

5.0 DETAILS

- 5.1 A more detailed explanation of how the fee based scheme may operate is explained in the attached report. However, since the approval of the scheme by the Brent Executive, 10 businesses have formally signed up as Primary Authority Businesses with Trading Standards and, in some cases, also in relation to Food Safety and Health & Safety. These businesses include multi-national companies such as Ikea, Wickes and Pernod Ricard. In fact, Pernod Ricard is based outside of the Consortium area but has chosen to sign up as a Primary Authority with the London Boroughs of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service. Three of the businesses have opted to pay for the scheme on an annual contractual basis and the remainder have chosen the 'pay as you go' method of payment.

6.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Any person wishing to inspect the above should contact Nagendar Bilon, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ; Telephone: 020 8937 5500.

NAGENDAR BILON
HEAD OF TRADING STANDARDS
