

# TRADING STANDARDS JOINT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

## 9 JUNE 2011

**Chairman:** \* Councillor Keith Ferry

**Councillors:** \* Susan Hall London Borough of Harrow  
\* Phillip O'Dell

\* Eddie Baker London Borough of Brent  
\* Lesley Jones  
\* Sami Hashmi

\* Denotes Member present

### 1. Appointment of Chair

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Ferry be appointed as Chairman for this meeting.

### 2. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made.

### 3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21 March 2011

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2011, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### 4. Matters arising

##### Additional Services

In response to a question, officers advised that in addition to the verification of weights and measures, an additional source of income was through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). Trading Standards would recoup approximately 20% of the sum awarded in successful cases undertaken in relation to the Act. Trading Standards officers had agreed with the Brent Finance Department that any funds awarded would remain within the base budget for the department.

##### 2012 Olympics

Officers advised that discussions were currently taking place by Central Government in relation to how to tackle counterfeit goods and the sale of unlicensed merchandise. It was anticipated that more experienced officers would be heavily involved in the operational duties around this time, with agency staff ensuring the continuation of the service. Issues regarding ticket touting would be dealt with by the police.

**RESOLVED:** That the items be noted.

#### 5. Annual Report of the Head of Trading Standards for the Year 2010/11

The Head of Trading Standards introduced a report which detailed the work of the Consortium during the Financial Year 2010/11. In response to questions, he advised that:

- in relation to the case of the rouge trader who elicited approximately £86,000 from a North Harrow resident, it remained unclear as to whether any of the money was returned as the case was being handled by the police;
- a family who were overcharged by a hospital for surgery, were now based in Hong Kong. Officers continued their investigations due to the family being based in the borough at the time of the offence;
- officers were currently involved in three POCA cases, and conducting weight and measurement testing for approximately six boroughs. A small percentage of officer time was spent investigating POCA cases. It was anticipated the money recouped from the proceeds would be sufficient to pay for the financial investigator responsible for conducting the investigation. At the time the budget for the service was set, the volume of work was measured and was continually monitored within the service by the management matrix and reviewed monthly. Targets were generally being met or exceeded. Action would be taken to address underperformance;
- the restructure of the service at Brent was not yet complete. It was hoped that it would provide the opportunity to develop a better,

strengthened monitoring model. A report detailing the results of the restructure would be provided to a future meeting of the Forum;

- Trading Standards were responsible for advising businesses on the types of identification to accept, such as a drivers licence or passport for example;
- Ministers remained clear that all enforcement powers currently held by the Office of Fair Trading would be transferred to Trading Standards. It was unclear as to how this transition would take and what level of national or international investigations Trading Standards would be expected to undertake;
- equipment used by officers at Brent would remain where it was currently based. Evidence may move whilst the new Civic Centre for Brent was being built.

Members were pleased with the results detailed in the Annual Report and urged officers to continue with the high standard of service they were providing.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting would be held on 28 November 2011 at Brent Town Hall.

#### **7. Any Other Urgent Business**

##### Vote of Thanks:

The Board thanked all officers for their involvement in the high standard and variety of the work conducted in the Trading Standards service.

**RESOLVED:** That the item be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.20 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR KEITH FERRY  
Chairman