

# NOTES OF AN INFORMAL TRADING STANDARDS JOINT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

22 November 2018 at 6.00 pm

## Inquorate Meeting

The meeting was declared inquorate as the requirement for attendance by at least two Members from each Authority was not met.

## Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 March 2018

The minutes would be subject to formal approval at the next Trading Standards meeting.

## Matters Arising:

### *Harrow's Use of Website*

It was noted that a link to the Trading Standards pages from the Harrow website was still outstanding.

**Action** - The Head of Community and Public Protection undertook to progress the matter.

### *Proposal for Providing a POCA/Planning Enforcement Service to Harrow*

The Senior Regulatory Service Manager referred to the offer of a planning enforcement officer secondment from Brent to Harrow, funded by reserves, to enable the identification of cases of planning breaches for investigation and prosecution by Brent. There would be no cost to Harrow.

**Action** – it was agreed that the Head of Community and Public Protection would take forward a meeting with Councillor Keith Ferry, Interim Chief Planning Officer and Senior Regulatory Service Manager.

### *Rogue Letting Agents*

A Member asked whether the approach was cross-borough. It was noted that a report had been submitted to the Joint Board about a year previously regarding delegation to enforce the Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (Requirement to Belong to a Scheme etc) (England) Order 2014. Whilst this delegation had been approved in Brent, nothing had happened in Harrow.

**ACTION** - The Head of Community and Public Protection undertook to arrange for the delegation of the function in Harrow.

## TRADING STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

The Board noted the report. In response to questions it was reported that:

- There had been no cases of unlicensed firework sales in Harrow. A list of those licensed to sell fireworks had been shared with Licensing officers and the Police in Harrow;
- In the absence of legislation prohibiting the sale of acid to under 18's, leaflets recommending traders not to sell harmful substances to young people had been distributed.

The Board expressed concern that Harrow was not issuing more press releases on trading standards matters which was having the effect of the service being seen as a Brent function rather than a partnership with Harrow. An example was publicity for the London Trading Standards Week of Action when Harrow was one of the only London Borough's not to take part. **Action** - The Head of Community and Public Protection undertook to raise the matter with the appropriate contact in the Harrow Communications Team.

#### **Report Regarding the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations**

The report was noted.

**Action** - The Senior Regulatory Service Manager to inform the TSJAB of progress

#### **Report Regarding a Proposed Enforcement Policy and Service Standards as Required by the Regulators' Code**

It was noted that Brent had adopted the government template for conformity and the Harrow document covered all the same aspects.

**Action** - No action required.

**Note: The Informal meeting of the Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board, having started at 6pm finished at 7.15pm**