

**REGULATORY SERVICES UPDATE – Regulatory Services' Service Plan Update** 

CORPORATE COMMITTEE	CLASSIFICATION:				
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Open				
	If exempt, the reason will be listed in the main body of this report				
WARD(S) AFFECTED					
All Wards					
GROUP DIRECTOR Kim Wright, Neighbourhoods and Housing					

## 1. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2018/19 was presented to the Corporate Committee in July 2018. The plan was approved by Committee. The report now being presented;
  - provides an update on the performance of the Environmental Health Service against the Plan for the 2017/18 and to the end of Quarter 2 2018/19 and the work undertaken to improve the quality of food premises in Hackney to protect the health of the public, to assist businesses to comply with their legal requirements.
  - shows the impact of the Service in managing and reducing the numbers of 'not' broadly compliant premises and those not yet rated, in order to improve the percentage of broadly compliant premises in the Borough;
  - notes the greater emphasis placed on driving up compliance through advice, education, inspections of establishments considered to be flouting the law, and the necessary interventions undertaken.
- 1.2 This report also highlights the work of Hackney Trading Standards for 2017/18 and to the end of Q2 2018/19. The plan outlines the Service's achievements and identifies areas of interest for the future.
- 1.3 In fulfilling its duties, the Service provides support to individuals, communities and businesses in the borough to enable people to buy goods and services with confidence and security, by offering advice to businesses to help them to comply with the law as well as dealing with commercial noise and nuisance complaints.
- 1.4 The Service also fulfils an important role in relation to public safety and health, for example through ensuring safe storage of dangerous items and by preventing the sale of dangerous products including the supply of age-restricted products to minors.
- 1.5 The Service also seeks to ensure there is a fair trading environment and helps businesses comply with legislation in order to protect consumers from unfair trading practices.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Corporate Committee is recommended to:

• Note the level and scope of work being carried out to meet the requirements of the plan.

#### 3. REASONS FOR DECISION

3.1 The Food Standards Agency recommends that food service plans are submitted for Member approval to ensure local transparency and accountability.

3.2 Trading Standards have a duty to ensure consumer protection law is enforced fairly and proportionately.

## 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Food Law Enforcement Service Plan (FLESP) is a statutory plan which sets out how the Council will undertake enforcement of food safety legislation.
- 4.2 The Plan is prepared in accordance with the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) Framework Agreement (2000), issued 1 April 2001, and is an important part of the process to ensure that national food safety priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally. It also focuses on key deliverables, provides an essential link with financial planning, provides objectives for the future including identifying major issues that cross service boundaries and provides a means of managing performance and making performance comparisons.
- 4.3 The performance of the Food Safety Service is measured against its fulfilment of the Plan and the percentage of broadly compliant premises within the borough.

### 5. FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN UPDATE

- 5.1 The FSA's Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System (LAEMS) data shows that 87% of Hackney's food premises were broadly compliant as of 31st March 2018. The data recently released by the FSA provides a comparative performance data for each local authority in the country.
- 5.2 Tables 1a below show food hygiene performance data across North East (NE) London Food Sector boroughs to the end of Q2 2018/19. Table 1b shows a comparison in the same period in 2017/18.
- 5.3 Table 1c shows the breakdown of category A-C from the submitted 2017/18 LAEMS return. The tables highlight that Hackney has the third highest number of food premises across the sector and is also ranked joint second in terms of broad compliance. The two boroughs with the higher number of food premises, the London boroughs of Camden and Tower Hamlets have lower broadly compliance figures respectively (69% and 85%).
- 5.4 Table 2 demonstrates the level of enforcement action taken across the NE London Food Sector boroughs. It shows that Hackney served the third highest number of hygiene improvement notices, the fourth highest number of Voluntary Closures and number of warning letters sent. This shows the Service to be high performing in comparison to our neighbours.
- 5.5 Table 3 highlights that Hackney is the only one of six NE London Food Sector boroughs to have completed 100% inspections of high risk premises for food standards.

Table 1a – Broadly Co	mpliant April 2018	- September 2018*
-----------------------	--------------------	-------------------

Local Authority	% Broad Compliance (inc. unrated)	% Broad Compliance (excl. unrated)	% Broad Compliance - category A	% Broad Compliance - category B	% Broad Compliance - category C	% Broad Compliance (Cat A-C)	% Unrated Premises
Barking & Dagenham	90%	97%	20%	40%	81%	70%	8%
Camden	69%	84%	2%	28%	83%	70%	17%
Enfield	55%	58%	10%	35%	77%	63%	5%
Hackney	87%	88%	12%	50%	83%	74%	1%
Havering	87%	92%	0%	55%	87%	76%	5%
Islington	80%	88%	7%	47%	82%	75%	9%
Newham	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided
Redbridge	86%	90%	0%	43%	75%	61%	4%
Tower Hamlets	85%	90%	0%	19%	78%	63%	6%
Waltham Forest	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided

\*Data accurate to 30/6/18. Data to end 30.09.18 not yet published.

## Table 1b – Broadly complaint April 2017 – September 2017

Local Authority	% Broad Compliance (inc. unrated)	% Broad Compliance (excl. unrated)	% Broad Compliance - category A	% Broad Compliance - category B	% Broad Compliance - category C	% Broad Compliance (Cat A-C)	% Unrated Premises
Barking & Dagenham	79%	90%	17%	52%	84%	80%	12%
Camden	71%	85%	2%	32%	86%	71%	16%
Enfield	50%	54%	5%	33%	77%	63%	7%
Hackney	84%	87%	14%	38%	86%	75%	4%
Havering	87%	90%	33%	46%	82%	73%	4%
Islington	79%	86%	10%	43%	81%	72%	8%
Newham	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided
Redbridge	89%	94%	67%	45%	95%	90%	5%
Tower Hamlets	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided
Waltham Forest	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided	No data provided

Table 1c – Breakdown	n of Premises*
----------------------	----------------

LA Name	Total establishme nts (including not yet rated & outside)	Establishme nts not yet rated for intervention	A rated establishme nts	Total % of Broadly Compliant establishme nts - A	B rated establishme nts	Total % of Broadly Compliant establishme nts - B	C rated establishme nts	Total % of Broadly Compliant establishme nts - C
Barking and Dagenham	1,253	41	9	22.22	92	47.83	310	81.61
Camden (1)	3,745	663	51	1.96	285	28.77	1,185	84.14
Enfield	2,575	6	32	12.50	188	34.57	532	76.50
Hackney	2,705	40	19	10.53	199	46.23	736	85.73
Havering	1,878	51	17	0.00	124	50.00	365	85.21
Islington	2,360	153	13	23.08	168	47.02	787	82.08
Newham	2,232	98	21	0.00	152	38.16	518	76.06
Redbridge	1,785	71	8	0.00	150	48.00	320	77.19
Tower Hamlets	2,954	44	45	0.00	212	18.87	803	79.45
Waltham Forest	2,023	260	0	0.00	86	32.56	494	86.84

\* from 2017/18 LAEMS return

## Table 2 – Enforcement\*

Authority Name	Total number of actions - Voluntary closure	Total number of Seizure, detention & surrender of food	Total number of Hygiene emergency prohibition notice	Total number of Simple caution	Total number of Hygiene improvement notices	Total number of Written warnings	Total number of Prosecutions
Barking and Dagenham	2	0	1	0	1	399	0
Camden (2)	26	5	5	0	67	1,000	0
Enfield	17	1	0	3	50	933	8
Hackney	12	11	0	0	61	869	0
Havering	2	0	1	0	9	716	3
Islington	5	0	0	6	16	231	1
Newham	31	3	2	6	95	697	0
Redbridge	4	0	0	0	0	61	0
Tower Hamlets	0	6	7	0	23	1,279	7
Waltham Forest	2	0	12	0	7	763	0

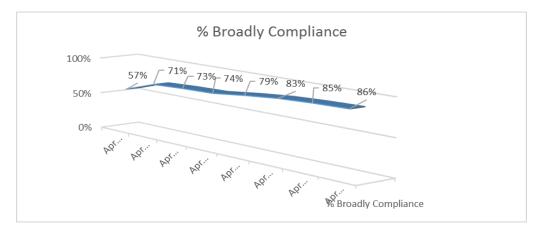
\*from 2017/18 LAEMS return

## Table 3 - Food Standards\*

Authority Name	Total % of interventions - premises rated A	Total number of Improvement Notices	Total number of Written Warnings	Total number of Prosecutions
Barking and Dagenham	100.00	0	0	0
Camden (2)	100.00	0	0	0
Enfield	100.00	0	218	1
Hackney	100.00	1	570	0
Havering	87.50	2	286	0
Islington	70.00	0	6	0
Newham	92.86	0	269	0
Redbridge	100.00	0	6	0
Tower Hamlets	100.00	0	1270	0
Waltham Forest	75.00	1	0	0

\*from 2017/18 LAEMS return

- 5.6 The graph below shows Hackney's broad compliance percentage performance data direction of travel since 2011. It can be seen that there has been a year-on-year improvement with the percentage of broadly compliant increasing by 29% since 2011. This is a direct reflection of the efforts Officers have made to raise the compliance of the food businesses in Hackney using a range of interventions including providing food hygiene training through the Environmental Health Training Centre; undertaking inspections of unrated premises in a timely manner; and taking enforcement action where appropriate thereby ensuring the public are protected.
- 5.7 The broadly complaint figure is a key performance measurement for food establishments in the Borough. A broadly compliant business is one that achieves a food hygiene rating score of 3, 4 or 5. The number of unrated premises also has an adverse effect on the broadly compliant score as such businesses are deemed to be non-compliant until they have been inspected. Unfortunately, the Service has no control of the number of new business registrations that it receives.

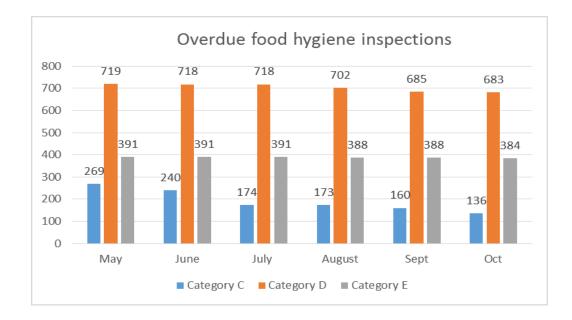


5.8 **Food Hygiene Inspection Programme** – This concentrates on the handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent foodborne illness. Members will be aware from the FLESP that premises are categorised and the frequency of inspection depends primarily on their category as specified in the Food Law Code of Practice. The table below shows the progress with inspections to the end of Q2 2018/19.

Inspection Rating	Number of food hygiene inspections due	Number of inspections completed	RAG
A	18 x 2 = 36	14	
В	197	72	
С	233	113	
D	171	63	
E	100	5	

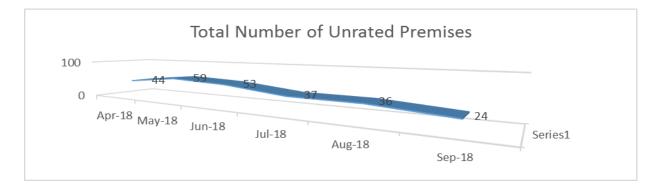
The frequency of inspection is for each category:

- A: every 6 months (2 inspections/year)
- B: every 12 months
- C: every 18 months
- D: every 2 years
- E: every 3 years
- 5.9 Category D & E premises are subject to the alternative enforcement strategy (AES) and are therefore subject to interventions other than inspections. Every Competent Authority must devise an Alternative Enforcement Strategy to determine how they will conduct official controls duties at premises rated as low risk i.e. those rated category D and E. This can include sending a self-assessment questionnaire for example.
- 5.10 It should be noted that the number of inspections due above includes a considerable backlog from the previous year. Category C, D and E are not considered a priority by this Service as resources are directed to the highest risk premises. However, in response to the FSA audit in October 2017, the service has resourced additional Officers to start the work of reducing the number of overdue inspections. The graph below shows the reduction in number since May 2018. It should be noted that there have been difficulties in recruiting short term agency staff which has impacted on the overall target.



5.11 Inspection rates are acceptable; and the numbers of unrated premises i.e. those premises not yet risk rated because they have not been inspected are being maintained at a low level. A working number of unrated premises of 70 is reasonable.

## 5.12 The graph below shows the variation in numbers of unrated premises.



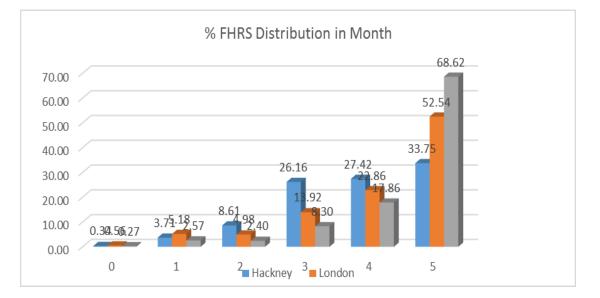
### 5.13 Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS)

- 5.14 The FHRS is key to the Food Standards Agency's strategic objective: safer food for the nation. Restaurants, takeaways, cafés, sandwich shops, pubs, hotels, supermarkets and other retail food outlets in the Borough, as well as other businesses where consumers can eat or buy food, are given a hygiene rating as part of the scheme.
- 5.15 Table 4 below shows the number of 0 5 rated business in April 2018 to date.
- 5.16 The number of zero rated premises is lower than the London average which is encouraging (0.47% for Hackney compared to 0.69% for London).
- 5.17 Currently, business that are rated 0-2 are encouraged to request a rerating once the improvements highlighted during the initial inspection have been completed.
- 5.18 The number of premises in Hackney with a FHRS of 3 remains high when compared to London and nationally (see graph below) and work continues with these businesses to assist businesses to improve hygiene and achieve a higher rating.
- 5.19 In 2018 the Service commenced charging businesses who request to be re-rated following improvement works. Prior to this the business had to wait between 3-6 months from the date of application for a re-rating inspection. A business can apply at any time and more than once. This service will encourage businesses to adopt this new way of working as a means of raising standards.
- 5.20 Business rated 4 and 5 are those business that are compliant across a range of food hygiene parameters in terms of hygiene in the business, the structure of the business and the confidence in management demonstrated at the time of the inspection.

#### Table 4

	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18
0	8	8	11	10	8	10
1	88	88	91	96	86	82
2	204	204	197	192	189	182
3	620	620	607	599	589	583
4	650	650	635	627	608	610
5	800	800	813	828	860	856

The graph below shows the distribution of premises by month (as a %) in Hackney compared to local (London) and national trends.



5.21 **Food Standards Inspection Programme** – This concentrates on compliance with composition, presentation, labelling requirements and management controls. Food standards inspections are also carried out on a risk based programme. The Code of Practice specifies the frequency of inspection. Premises that fall under a category C rating may be dealt with via the alternative enforcement strategy. The table below shows progress for food standards inspections. Similarly the inspections due include a considerable backlog.

Inspection Rating	Number of food standards inspections due	Number of inspections completed	RAG
Α	21	9	
В	244	204	
С	211	20	

The frequency of inspection for Category:

- A: every 12 months
- B: every 2 years
- C: every 5 years
- 5.22 There has been an overall decrease in enforcement activities mainly due to improved engagement with businesses and the positive effects of face-to-face contact and support by ward Officers out on the district. The table below shows a comparison of enforcement activities undertaken to the end of Q2 2018/19 against previous years.

Enforcement action	2015/16 (end of yr)	2016/17 (end of yr)	2017/18 (end of yr)	2018/19 (to 30.09.18)
Total number of Food Hygiene Written warnings issued	973	580	619	447
Hygiene Emergency Prohibition notices (formal closure)	0	4	0	0
Voluntary Closures due to Food Hygiene imminent risk	4	3	17	8
Premises receiving a Hygiene Improvement notice	43	39	63	11
Seizure/detention of food	7	0	0	0
Prosecution of food premises	3	0	0	0
Total	1030	626	699	466

5.23 The table below shows level of other activities undertaken by the team, to the end of Q2 2018/19, is shown in the table below:

Type of Service Request (to 30.09.18)	Total
Alleged Food Poisoning	33
Asbestos Removal Notification	4
Drainage related	4
Business Requests for Advice/Info	58
Certification	2
Smoking related	2
Foreign body complaint	4
Food hazard warnings	15
Food hygiene complaints	134
FHRS related	24
Food labelling related	12
Food premises complaints	21
Food pest related complaints	21

Events	2
Food standards related	10
H&S related	31
Liquor licence referrals	46
Special treatments referrals	59
Misc	5
Total	487

## 6. TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE PLAN UPDATE

6.1 The Trading Standards service delivers on both statutory and Mayoral priorities as well as delivering targeted project work of National and local importance. These projects are determined by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, by monitoring trends and fulfilling local priorities.

#### 6.2 Inspections

- 6.3 The data in table 5 below, compares the enforcement visits figures for the last two years. Visits are categorised as High, Upper Medium, Lower Medium or low.
- 6.4 The basis of the scheme is that each business within a local authority's area receives a score to direct enforcement activity to deal with the risk posed by the business, as opposed to a scheme which is based purely on inspection as a means of determining the risks. This means that businesses not previously risk rated (e.g. builders working from home) because they were not "inspectable" will now be risk rated as they can present a Trading Standards risk which can be dealt with via other mechanisms (e.g. surveys, test purchases or internet examinations, etc.)
- 6.5 The scheme comprises a hazard element (previously known as the national element) that is scored on the basis of business category and a Likelihood of Compliance element (previously known as the local element) that is particular to the individual business and determined by local authorities. An example of a high risk premises could be a premises selling products subject to safety legislation such as knives.

Risk Category	High 2017	High 2018	Upper Med 2017	Upper Med 2018	Lower Med 2017	Lower Med 2018
Total Number of Visits	100	103	56	82	59	63
% of visits carried out in each risk category April- Sept	60%(10 0 out of 165)	(103 out of 125)	30% out of 186)	48% ut of 172)	26% out of 208)	(63 out of 170)

#### Table 5 – Inspection comparison to end Q2 2017/18 & 2018/19

6.6 The Service has refocussed on risk based inspections as well as carrying out intelligence led projects. The Consumer Rights Act 2015 amends Officers' powers of entry and has led to a reduction in the overall number of visits conducted. However the visits are more targeted at the higher risk visits.

## 6.7 **Consumer Complaints investigated**

6.8 From April – September 2018 there were a total of 1491 consumer complaints received from members of the public. This is up from 1176 for the same period for the previous year.

Notifications	Referrals	Other	Total
1134	277	80	1491

6.9 Notifications are received from the Consumer Advice Bureau (CAB). These are generally sent for intelligence purposes only. They are reviewed by Officers and may lead to follow up work if there are any trends or serious breaches found. Referrals are sent to the Service for action if necessary. They may also be used for intelligence.

The rise in the number of complaints received does not reflect a national reduction in the number of complaints received by the Consumer Advice Bureau who receive the majority of complaints on behalf of trading standards.

#### 6.10 Weight and Measures inspections

Total Number of weights and measures inspections	52
Percentage of visits compared to annual target (52 out of 72)	72%

#### 6.11 **Cosmetic Products Prosecution**

6.12 Dalston Hair and Beauty Ltd trading as Shaba Cosmetics of 36-42 Kingsland High Street London E8 2JP was fined £59,793 at Thames Magistrates Court on Friday 13th April 2018 for supplying dangerous skin lightening products. The dangerous skin lightening creams contain the ingredient hydroquinone which is banned. These products are banned in the EU. The dangerous skin lightening creams, which contained the illegal ingredient hydroquinone, can burn the skin and cause permanent damage and discolouration

The Director, Mr Mohammed Naeem, pleaded guilty to the 13 charges against him and 13 against his company. He was handed a fine of £14,000, with the company receiving a fine of £42,000. A victim surcharge was also paid by both defendants, with the full costs and fines totalling £59,793. The fine is thought to be the largest issued in London for a breach of the cosmetics regulations.

## 6.13 **Operation Razorfish and Operation Bacchus**

- 6.14 Officers from Trading Standards coordinated a large multi stakeholder operation on Wednesday 25th April 2018. The Operation targeted premises to establish if licenced traders would permit a young female volunteer to check-in to the hotel premises with an older male and whether targeted off licences would permit a proxy sale of alcohol. The additional operation aimed to establish compliance across the night time economy in relation to illicit alcohol and tobacco.
- 6.15 In addition to Trading Standards were Officers representing Environmental Health, Licencing, Planning Enforcement, HMRC, The International Federation of Spirit Producers and The Police Child Sexual Exploitation Team.
- 6.16 Following the targeted visits a s116 Crime and Disorder notice was served on the hotel Global Lodge 109A Kingsland High Street, Dalston, Hackney, London, E8 2PB for allowing child sexual exploitation to take place - the hotel is now required to keep a documented booking system and have records available for inspection by a Police Officer, failure to do this is punishable by a fine of £2000 at Magistrate's Court. Two proxy sales of alcohol were made at Food Express/World, 105 Great Eastern Street, EC2A 3JD and British Food and Wine, 329 Old Street, EC1V 9LE which were followed up in relation to maintaining the licencing objective of safeguarding children from harm.
- 6.17 On the same day visits, with a sniffer dog, were made to seven premises across the North and South of the Borough which were all found to be compliant. The first visit was a coordinated raid at two linked premises Best American Pizza at 16c Pitfield Street and a return visit to Kingsland Wine, 77 Kingsland Road. Both premises were found to be in compliance with the owner commenting that he has learnt his lesson when £20,000 worth of illicit and non-standardised tobacco was seized from his premises with a further four premises also inspected.
- 6.18 The final part of the Operation was a visit to Havana Shisha Bar at 207 Lower Clapton Road where photographic evidence of breaches of The Town and Country Planning Act and The Health Act was obtained by Council Officers. HMRC have served a notice on the premises asking for evidence of duty payments and if this is not received the stock of herbal shisha tobacco held at the premises will be liable for seizure and forfeiture.

#### 6.19 **Operation Ceres (Liberal)**

- 6.20 This operation is part of the annual National Operation Liberal work that is targeted to disrupt the activities of rogue traders carrying out doorstep crime in the Borough. This is a Police and Trading Standards multi agency project which has been in operation since 2006.
- 6.21 This action day is part of a nationwide weeklong activities with the theme of preventing doorstep crime, including lines of enquiry investigations into ongoing cases, social media activity, contact with scaffolding companies and consumer education.
- 6.22 The morning activities targeted Stoke Newington/Stamford Hill on Monday 8th May 2018. The Service are receiving the highest volume of complaints about rogue traders in this area. The exercise was aimed at disruption

although we are supplied with a list of target nominals and vehicles by the National Operation Liberal team. Police assistance was provided.

- 6.23 In the morning the focus was at Clapton Common stopping trade vehicles and verifying the identity of the drivers.
- 6.24 Two mobile teams investigated tradesmen working on premises in the N16 postcode. Intelligence was gathered concerning vehicles, traders and individuals operating in the N16 area and the Service will be using the national intelligence database to check for target nominals and vehicles.
- 6.25 For the final part of the operation the Police presence was required to ascertain identities and to avoid a breach of the peace at targeted locations where building works being undertaken.

#### 6.26 **Operation Sceptre**

6.27 This project is targeted at premises selling knives to minors. On Saturday 26th May 2018 the Trading Standards Team conducted a test purchase operation using police cadets. The aim of this operation was to attempt test purchases of knives. The cadets attempt to buy knives from 12 premises however there were no sales of knives made.

#### 6.28 Tyre Safety Project

6.29 Hackney Trading Standards has participated in a pan London part worn tyre project. The project entailed carrying out visits to a maximum of ten garages that sold and fitted part worn tyres and advising the owners about the law relating to these tyres. Many of the garages had either moved or closed down, but where Trading standards found them operating, extensive advice regarding quality of the tyre, storage and marking was given. The findings were reported back so a snap shot of the issues in London can be shown. Garages were given a month to implement advised changes. The main issues found being the words PART WORN not being placed on the tyres in permanent white ink and inappropriate storage of the tyres.

#### 6.30 Illegal Tobacco Project

- 6.31 Trading Standards alongside partners such as Public Health and the Fire Brigade joined forces in the fight against illegal tobacco on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as the London-wide illegal tobacco roadshow came to the Narroway in Hackney.
- 6.32 Illegal tobacco is untaxed, unregulated and available at lower prices, making it easier for children to start smoking and harder for smokers to stop. Residents, workers and visitors to the borough were able to find out more about illegal tobacco and why it's a problem. People were also advised on how to quit smoking from the local Stop Smoking Service, and tobacco sniffer dogs showed off their skills in demonstrations throughout the day.
- 6.33 Trading Standards continue to support vulnerable adults who are preyed upon or fall victim to scammers. Officers provide and fit call blocking devices which block certain unsolicited calls from the receiver. The device then reduces the opportunity for the household to fall victim to telephone scams. The Service also return cheques which have been sent by consumers to rogue traders but intercepted by the Scambusters Team.

#### 6.34 Licence Review

6.35 Trading standards called for a review of the licence for Kingsland Wine, 77 Kingsland High Street London E8 2PB. This review occurred following the supply of illicit tobacco and a proxy sale of alcohol to a minor. The decision of the sub - Committee was to suspend the licence for six weeks.

#### 6.36 Animal Feed checks

6.37 The Service conducted 21 animal feed visits out of 29 registered premises. This represents 72% of premises.

### 1.1 Mayoral Priorities

- 1.2 The Service delivered on three of the Mayoral priorities as set out below.
  - Mayor's priority 1 The service tackles inequality by protecting vulnerable groups such as the elderly and young by investigating doorstep crime complaints and conducting age restricted test purchases.
  - Mayor's priority 2 The service processes a large number of complaints and service requests and specialises in Proceeds of Crime (POCA) work that delivers an income to the Council whilst removing the financial benefits for criminals.
  - Mayor's priority 3- The service prioritises quality of life by undertaking intelligence led safety projects, tackling counterfeit goods, pay day lenders and Letting and Managing Agents Redress Scheme which protects consumers to ensure that they are not financially exploited.

## 1.3 Age Restricted Interventions

1.4 Trading Standards conducted a test purchase operation visit on Saturday 26th May 2018 using police cadets. The aim of this operation was to attempt test purchases of knives. The cadets attempt to buy knives from 12 premises however there were no sales of knives made to the cadets.

## **Financial Investigations**

- 1.5 The Service has had a reduction from three accredited financial investigators undertaking investigations to one in the period to the end of Q2 2018/19
- 1.6 A confiscation order of £100,000 was awarded against a Stoke Newington landlord after building four flats illegally and renting them out to tenants The four flats at 77 Osbaldeston Road in Upper Clapton, were constructed without planning permission as an extension to a converted Victorian house in 2007.Following enforcement action by Hackney Council Planning Department, the owner was ordered to remove part of the rear ground floor extension and all of the second floor roof extension. However, after failing to comply, Bellview Estates Ltd, and its director

Jacob Friedman were taken to court by the Council under the Town and Country Planning Act.

- 1.7 After both defendants pleaded guilty, the Council then sought to recover the income made illegally from the flats under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Bellview Estates Ltd and Jacob Friedman received fines of £10,000 and £7500 respectively, were ordered to pay the Council's legal costs of £6639.68 and to return the £100,000 benefit made from renting the flats out illegally. The confiscation has to be paid within 3 months and represents an incentivisation figure to the Council of £36,375.
- 1.8 On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Volus Properties Ltd pleaded guilty to a Planning Offence of converting the ground floor and basement of 21 Well Street London E9 and were sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court.
- 1.9 A fine was awarded of £5000, costs of £2080 awarded and a compensation order of £8167.78 made under the Proceeds of Crime Act. This compensation order represented the criminal benefit of the offence and comprised the rental income received by a landlord who had converted the building into a bedroom and kitchen without obtaining planning permission.
- 1.10 The money was paid within 14 days to the court and £8167.78 will be received directly by the Directorate. Services. A further point of interest is that the court cited a previous case conducted by Hackney (referenced in Banks Sentencing guidelines as LB Hackney v Dagim Fish & Deli Ltd) as a precedent guide for sentencing for this defendant.

## 7.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST PRIORITIES - APPENDIX 1 AND 2

7.1 The report provides an update against the priorities in the Regulatory Services Performance plan for 2017/18 and for period the April 2018 – September 2018.

# 8.0 COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 8.1 This report notes the performance, level and scope of work being carried out to meet the requirements of service plans within Business Regulation.
- 8.2 The aims and objectives of the programmes described in this report will be delivered within the constraints of the existing Business Regulation service budgets.
- 8.3 The report notes (Paragraphs 6.42-6.46) the financial investigations under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). Income received from compensation orders awarded in favour of the Council contributes to the cost of staff involved in POCA investigations and enforcement action

# 9.0 COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

9.1 There are no immediate implications arising from this report.

#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Annual update against the priorities in the Regulatory Services Performance plan 2017/18

Appendix 2 – Annual update against the priorities in the Regulatory Services Performance plan April –September 2018.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

Report Author	Gerry McCarthy, Head of Community Safety,
	Enforcement and Business Regulation.
	Gerry.McCarthy@hackney.gov.uk
	Tel: 020 8356 7087
Comments of the Group	Philip Walcott, Group Accountant
Director of Finance and	Philip.Walcott@Hackney.gov.uk
Resources	020 8356 2396
Comments of the Director of	Pauline Neita, Senior Lawyer – General Litigation
Legal	Pauline.Neital@Hackney.gov.uk
	Tel: 020 8356 2775