



CABINET - 2ND OCTOBER 2013

SUBJECT: PROPOSED GWENT TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17th September 2013.
- 1.2 The report sought approval to progress a project to establish a Gwent Trading Standards Service and establish collaborative service delivery between the 5 Gwent Local Authorities.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Committee's main areas of discussion are outlined below:
 - Members emphasised that the service would need to have equal footing across all the authorities involved;
 - Concerns were raised about the lead authority taking on issues and problems from other authorities;
 - The cost of the project was queried, along with queries regarding the collaborative process with other authorities, including personnel implications. Members felt the need for discussion with trade unions and relevant service heads;
 - Members queried whether a collaboration would bring about a reduction in the level of service provision and felt that there should be a detailed business case for the proposal. Members also queried what improvements and benefits would be brought about by a collaborative service;
 - It was queried as to whether consultation has taken place with other authorities;
 - The issue of accountability was raised and whether a collaborative service would affect this;
 - Members queried if the scrutiny process would be affected in regards to Trading Standards issues;
 - Members stated that they would wish to see reviews of the proposal and continual monitoring and updates.
- 1.4 The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, and Members are asked to consider these recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on
17th September 2013 – Agenda item 7 (2)