



## CABINET – 18TH MARCH 2015

**SUBJECT: GWENT TRADING STANDARDS PROJECT**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The report, which presented a Business Case for the establishment of a Regional Trading Standards Service across the five Gwent Local Authorities, with Caerphilly as the lead authority, was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2015 and sought the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.
  - 1.2 It was explained that the Business Case had been developed on the basis of a number of assumptions relating to financial and funding considerations, but that for various reasons, these had not been fulfilled. Following these developments, an analysis of the situation established three options, which were outlined to Members:-
    1. Option 1 - do nothing;
    2. Option 2 - proceed with the Business Case and establish a Gwent Trading Standards Service;
    3. Option 3 - explore other opportunities for collaboration.
  - 1.3 In view of the reasons outlined within the report, the proposal to establish a Gwent Trading Standards Service in accordance with the Business Case (Option 2) was not recommended to Members. The report recommended that an alternative option of exploring other opportunities for collaboration be explored (Option 3).
  - 1.4 Discussion of the report ensued, and Officers responded to general queries regarding the contents of the Business Case. Officers outlined the rationale behind the recommendation to support Option 3, in that should any other opportunities be identified that offer benefits to Caerphilly County Borough Council, then these should be properly considered. Members raised concerns regarding timescales and funding considerations associated with this option. Officers also confirmed that the Gwent Trading Standards Project had come to an end.
  - 1.5 It was moved and seconded that Option 2 be not pursued. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed. It was then moved and seconded that Option 1 (do nothing) be supported rather than Option 3 (explore other opportunities for collaboration). An amendment was moved and seconded that Option 3 be endorsed. By a show of hands and a majority vote, the amendment was declared lost. By a further show of hands, and a majority vote, the motion to support Option 1 was carried.
  - 1.6 It was therefore recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained in the report and explained at the meeting, Options 2 and 3 be not pursued and that Option 1 be supported and, as such, the status quo in regards to the Trading Standards service be maintained.
  - 1.7 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2015  
– Agenda Item 9