

CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR TRADING STANDARDS & ANIMAL HEALTH

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?

Trading Standards & Animal Health

Trading Standards enforces Trading Standards legislation across the following key areas:

- Fraud and unfair trading practices – rogue traders, scams & cons, description of goods and services
- Age restricted products (alcohol, tobacco & fireworks)
- Consumer safety – ensuring consumer products are safe
- Intellectual property (illegal & counterfeit goods)
- Metrology – checking weighing equipment for accuracy or misuse
- Consumer credit
- Licensing – trading standards is a ‘responsible authority’ under the Licensing Act and enforces the sale of alcohol to underage children, persistent sales of cigarettes to underage children, fireworks licensing - safe storage & restrictions on the sale to underage children
- Energy labelling – monitoring environmental claims on products to improve the local environment, positively influence quality of life and promote sustainability

Animal Health & Welfare

- Enforcement of animal health and welfare legislation on farms, during transport and at animal markets
- Animal disease outbreaks and emergency plans (Rabies, Foot & Mouth, Avian Flu etc.)
- Enforcement of animal feed and fertiliser legislation.

HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL’S OBLIGATIONS?

Whilst there are no defined statutory minimum levels of service, the authority has a duty to enforce this legislation. This will be done by a mixture of reactive and proactive work. Reactive work involves investigating and responding to complaints and enquiries from residents and businesses. The proactive work undertaken includes programmed inspections of businesses and farms in Darlington.

DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?

The proposal is to reduce staffing levels by one post saving £30,000 and to reduce the budget for subscriptions by £5,000.

This will necessitate reducing proactive work – reducing the number of programmed inspections and ceasing participation in projects and campaigns. Also, the reactive work would need to be reduced. Instead of responding to every complaint/enquiry, the

trading standards service would have to prioritise complaints/enquiries and be more intelligence led. This could mean that some low priority complaints/enquiries are not acted upon immediately, but are used to provide intelligence.

WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?

	Budget 2019/20 £
Employee	228,954
Transport	4,974
Supplies & Services	28,669
Income	(1,550)
Overheads	23,992
Total	285,039

2019/20 budget £285,039