

***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities - Tuesday, 19 March 2013***

***Statement of Decision***

**Present:** Councillor Mrs J. Heathcoat

**Officers:** Richard Webb (Social & Community Services); Julie Dean (Law & Culture)

**Trading Standards Service Policy for the Provision of Business Advice and Support Services**

**Documentation considered:**

Report Trading Standards Service Policy for the Provision of Business Advice and Support Services

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

**Cabinet Member's Comments**

Following careful consideration of the applications, Councillor Mrs Heathcoat declared herself satisfied with the responses received from Mr Webb concerning:

- the point at which it would be considered that a fee would be charged?
- should demand for the enhanced services be significant, the point at which a decision would have to be made to either increase staff capacity ( taking into account the wider budgetary context of the Council) or to continue to devote current staff resources to them?

**Decision**

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

- (a) the Trading Standards Service will actively promote and encourage Oxfordshire businesses to enter into Primary Authority Partnerships on a cost recovery basis;
- (b) the Trading Standards Service will consider approaches from businesses outside of Oxfordshire for Primary Authority Partnerships on a cost recovery basis;

(c) for those businesses not wanting to enter into a Primary Authority Partnership, the Trading Standards Service adopts a policy of charging Oxfordshire businesses for Trading Standards business law advice on an hourly basis as set out in this report. Basic advice and advice to start-up businesses will continue to be provided free of charge; and

(d) an annual update be given to the Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities on progress with regard to the implementation of the Trading Standards Service Policy for the Provision of Business Advice and Support Services.

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities

Date .....