

## **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting with Cabinet Member – Health and Communities**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Report of the Strategic Director Cultural and Community Services**

#### **REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYST ROLE**

##### **1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to recruit and host a regional intelligence analyst on a fixed term externally funded basis.

##### **2. Information and analysis:**

- 2.1 For many years there has been good regional collaboration between local trading standards services within the East Midlands in order to share best practice and benefit from joint training initiatives. For the past eight or so years there has also been increasingly close collaboration with local Police and other enforcement agencies in recognition of the fact that criminals have become increasingly organised operating across local and regional boundaries and committing offences in a variety of legislative areas that fall within the scope of a number of different agencies.
- 2.2 There have also been developments in professional practices and techniques employed to identify patterns of criminal behaviour in order to identify those activities that are generating the most consumer detriment and highest levels of fraud. As types of criminality change and new threats emerge, so too does the responses have to change in order to ensure that enforcement agencies are deploying their resources in the most efficient way.
- 2.3 In recognition of the emergence of 'Organised Crime Groups', national government through the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) has provided a variety of support to local authorities to help tackle the criminals. This has included funding for regional 'Scambuster' teams and training to understand the role and importance of 'intelligence'. The East Midlands Scambuster team is currently hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council trading standards service.
- 2.4 The Consumer Landscape Review identified an enforcement gap between local/regional enforcement and national enforcement of rogue traders. This led to the Government transferring responsibility for the national lead for tackling trading standards criminals from the Office of Fair Trading to the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB). The Department for Business Innovation

and Skills (BIS) – the lead government department for trading standards legislation - also provided funding to establish a national trading standards intelligence ‘hub’. This facility, which is hosted by Suffolk County Council trading standards service, has a team of intelligence analysts whose role is to examine information sources such as the Citizens Advice Consumer Support (CACS) telephone service (formerly Consumer Direct). CACS and other agencies such as Action Fraud, have logged thousands of requests for assistance from the public who have encountered problems with goods or services that they have bought. A proportion of these individuals will have been victims of crime.

2.5 NTSB has recently commissioned a national threat assessment looking at the key action areas for trading standards services around the country. The identified priorities are;

- Doorstep Crime,
- Fair Trading issues (including scams),
- e-crime,
- Product Safety,
- Illegal Money Lending, and
- Intellectual Property - counterfeiting.

These national priorities are very much in line with the local priorities which Derbyshire Trading Standards is seeking to tackle.

2.6 Liaison between different agencies and between local, regional and national trading standards groups is essential to ensure that criminal activity is identified and information and intelligence is shared. As well as funding for a national ‘hub’, NTSB has agreed to provide funding for a regional intelligence analyst to assist with analysing information and identifying patterns of criminality.

2.7 Derbyshire trading standards service has established good links with local Police colleagues both within the Derbyshire Constabulary and also with the regional East Midlands Serious and Organised Crime Unit (EMSOU). For a number of years we jointly funded a trading standards secondee to Operation Liberal – the Police-led unit that was set up to tackle doorstep criminals and distraction burglaries. Derbyshire has also recently become the first trading standards service to be assigned as lead agency for an organised crime group involved in the supply of illicit tobacco. As a consequence of the good relationships already established, east midlands trading standards colleagues have requested that Derbyshire take the lead in recruiting a regional intelligence analyst to support the work of trading standards services within the region. An example of the types of tasks and responsibilities that will be assigned to the post-holder – subject to the Cabinet Member’s approval – is provided in the Appendix to this report.

### **3. Financial and Human Resource considerations:**

- 3.1. £35,000 has been identified to fund the role of regional intelligence analyst for the region. As with all government funding, the grant is only identified for the current financial year, although there has been an indication that the funding will be available for the following financial year and beyond. However, it will only be possible to advertise the post on a fixed term basis to the end of March 2014. As and when funding for future years is confirmed, it would be the intention to continue the employment of the post-holder in that role subject to successful performance. As employer, Derbyshire County Council will be responsible for any redundancy and pension costs which may arise. However, as with previous and current regional roles these costs, should they arise, will be met by regional funds.
- 3.2. It is understood that any such post hosted by Derbyshire County Council will have to go through the internal job evaluation process and will be subsequently advertised subject to that process and agreed job and person profile and salary determination. This will subsequently be reported to the Cabinet Member – Health and Communities for information.
- 3.3. The trade unions will be consulted.

### **4. Other considerations:**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **5. Background papers:**

None

### **6. Key Decision:**

No

### **7. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

**8. Strategic Director's recommendation:**

That the Cabinet Member – Health and Communities agrees to Derbyshire trading standards service recruiting and hosting a regional intelligence analyst on behalf of the east midlands region.

**Martin Molloy**  
**Strategic Director**  
**Cultural and Community Services**

### Key tasks and responsibilities of the regional intelligence analyst role

- To help implement the National Trading Standards Board integrated operating model at a regional and local level.
- To identify and develop a wide range of information sources (open and closed) regarding crimes relating to consumer and business detriment and identify gaps in current knowledge and understanding of the specific problems causing consumer and business detriment.
- To analyse intelligence and data to support the development of complex intelligence products that identifies relevant criminal behaviour, potential suspects, and avenues for further clarification or inquiry.
- To apply analytical techniques to understand and interpret a wide range of information as required, producing tactical intelligence products in line with the appropriate methodologies.
- To produce regional strategic and tactical assessments and intelligence packages to support local and regional investigations.
- To analyse intelligence, information, incidents and offences (as appropriate to the posting) using a structured reasoning process to infer meaning that goes beyond the known facts.
- To reduce a mass of data to an understandable form; to develop hypothesis of criminal activity; and to make recommendations for problem solving enforcement activity or potential new lines of enquiry, based upon the analysis.
- To collate and validate intelligence, evaluating the reliability of particular sources and the credibility of information.
- Liaising and collaborating with both regional trading standards services throughout the East Midlands and national services and with partners agencies across the public and private sectors (including other government agencies and relevant police forces) in order to develop and enhance intelligence pictures.
- Ensuring that relevant information is recorded and disseminated as appropriate
- To establish potential links and associations between nominal's and offences / offences and offences / nominal's and nominal's, and illustrate these evidentially to inform and assist investigations.

- To support the data inputting function by operating and maintaining information technology and other equipment to maintain the integrity and security of procedures, records and appropriate documentation.
- To promote the analyst function and the policies and initiatives of the National Intelligence function and provide training to other staff / trainees from partner authorities as and when required within relevant subject areas. Maintain knowledge of the current intelligence products, control strategy and Intelligence Requirement.
- To attend relevant national, regional or local groups of interest as required.