

2013/14 Budget Proposal

Service: Public Protection

Proposal Number:

Description of Proposal

This proposal is made in response to an alternative budget proposal made by the Conservative Group as follows:

Growth Item for developing a wider – covering Trading Standards team.

In order to pursue the soon- to-be-approved HWB Strategy, we seek to bolster our Trading Standards team to police the smoking and obesity issues identified in the JSNA by targeting binge-drinking, underage sales of tobacco products and alcohol.

Proposed Growth

Proposed Growth in 2013/14 £'000s	Proposed Growth in 2013/14 FTE Staff	Proposed Growth in 2014/15 £'000s	Proposed Growth in 2014/15 FTE Staff
50	1	0	0

	2013/14 £'000s	2014/15 £'000s
People	50	0
Property	-	-
Third Party	-	-
Infrastructure/Kit	-	-

Base Budget 2012/13

	£'000s
Expenditure	380
Employees	170
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	
Third Party Payments	
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	
Gross Expenditure	
Income	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
Support Services Income	
Gross Income	
Net Expenditure	

Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2012/13 Base Budget	0
Savings approved in the 2012/13 Base Budget	0

Impact of Proposal on public / services	The work of the current Trading Standards team on the issues highlighted in the alternative proposal focuses on the underage sale of alcohol and cigarettes to young people in Thurrock. The influence of the Trading Standards team on obesity is less direct, this work being done in the main by others including the Food Safety team. The proposal to increase the budget for Trading Standards has to be weighed against the overall budget position for the authority and the impact of any increase on the money available to other services in the authority.
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Impact of Proposal on performance	The amount quoted above would allow for the recruitment of an additional Trading Standards Officer. This would allow for a dedicated officer to be assigned to underage sales work to address the issues highlighted in the JSNA around alcohol and tobacco. This would provide for an increased interaction between local businesses selling alcohol and tobacco and the enforcement authority. This could be used for business education as well as enforcement against traders who flout the regulations. The disruption of supply of age restricted products such as alcohol and cigarettes to young people in Thurrock would have a beneficial effect on their long-term health and potentially on their educational prospects.
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Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable	The timescale for the implementation of this proposal is dependent on the HR timescales for recruitment and the availability of suitable Trading Standards Professionals .
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Equalities Impact	None
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