

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

This budget option is to reduce the staffing level within the Trading Standards Teams by one Fair Trading Officer and a Senior Trading Standards Officer.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

The Fair Trading Officers is engaged in providing support to vulnerable consumers who encounter trading standards issues. The officers are also involved in pro-active work to support business.

The proposed loss of posts will realise a saving of £71,000. Further savings will be made by the abolishment of a current vacant Trading Standards Officer post.

IMPACT

There will be less resilience within the teams to respond due to sickness absence. Response times to enquiries may lengthen and the level of intervention more reliant upon self help measures.

MITIGATION

The consumer support work will be redirected to the remaining team and the business support element taken up by the Trading Scheme project Officer.

Some of the workload for the proposed deleted post will be taken up by other staff members.

In addition, a further option for service delivery would be to abolish the Fair Trading Scheme. This is a viable scheme that earns income that greatly offsets costs.