

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Port Health and Environmental Services	19 January 2016
Subject: Port Health & Public Protection Business Plan 2015-2018: Progress Report (Period 2)	Public
Report of: The Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	For Information

Summary

This report provides an update on progress against the key performance indicators (KPIs) and objectives outlined in the Business Plan of the Port Health and Public Protection Division (PH&PP) of the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection (M&CP), for Period 2 (August-November) of 2015-16.

The report consists of:

- Performance against our key performance indicators (KPIs) – Appendix A
- Progress against our key objectives – Appendix B
- Enforcement activity – Appendix C
- Financial information – Appendix D

Key points from the report are that:

- The Health and Safety Team successfully prosecuted Blades (London) Ltd under the Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 in connection with a 2012 window cleaning fatality. The firm was fined £45,000 plus £7,500 costs.
- The London Port Health Authority successfully defended an appeal against a rejection notice issued for a consignment of pesticide contaminated Nigerian Beans that arrived at the Port of London Gateway. This has set an important legal precedent.
- The Pollution Control Team has obtained funding to investigate the feasibility of establishing a low emission neighbourhood in the City.
- Trading Standards officers have supported the provision of training sessions on the aim, objectives and successes of Operation Broadway to partner agencies across London.
- The Contaminated Land Strategy 2015–2020 has been approved by your committee and implementation of the action plan begun.
- The Animal Health and Welfare Team and Kent County Council Trading Standards Department won an award from the RSPCA for a joint operation at Coquelles in France, aimed at disrupting the illegal puppy trade.
- Restructuring the Food Safety and Health and Safety Environmental Health teams as part of agreed Service Based Review measures has been implemented.
- An independent audit of the pest control programme at Smithfield Market concluded that the programme was appropriate and effective at keeping rodent activity minimised and under control.
- At the end of November 2015, M&CP was £144k (8.1%) underspent against the local risk budget to date of £1.8m, over all the PH&PP services managed

by the Director and covered by the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee. Overall the Director is currently forecasting a minimal year end underspend position of £24k (0.9%) for all of the PH&PP City Fund services under his control. Appendix D sets out the detailed position for the individual services covered.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the content of this report and its appendices.

Main Report

Background

1. The 2015-16 PH&PP Business Plan sets out seven Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and nine Key Improvement Objectives against which the Division's performance will be measured throughout the year.
2. The KPIs and objectives were selected to be representative of the main elements of work carried out.

Current Position

3. To ensure that your Committee is kept informed of progress against the current business plan, progress against KPIs (Appendix A) and key improvement objectives (Appendix B) is reported on a periodic (four-monthly) basis, along with a financial summary (Appendix D). This approach allows Members to ask questions and have a timely input on areas of particular importance to them. Members are also encouraged to ask the Directors for information throughout the year.
4. Periodic progress is also discussed by Senior Management Groups to ensure any issues are resolved at an early stage.
5. In order to provide further information on the work carried out by PH&PP, each periodic report includes a summary of the enforcement activity carried out (Appendix C).

Air Quality

6. The Risk Register for PH&PP includes Air Quality as a high (red) risk.
7. Air Quality is now also on the Corporate Risk Register and a list of actions to demonstrate mitigation against that risk will be reported to the Audit and Risk Management Committee in March.
8. Small particulate pollution has chronic health impacts from long term exposure at very low concentrations and is in evidence within the City and central London. There is also a health impact associated with long term and short term exposure to nitrogen dioxide. Under certain atmospheric conditions there is a higher probability of immediate effects.

9. The consequences, both acute and chronic, may include:
 - An increase in hospital referrals placed upon both emergency services and the NHS for those already suffering from respiratory or cardiovascular conditions (it may also place a strain on City social services).
 - An increase in deaths, particularly of those already suffering from respiratory or cardiovascular conditions (both residents and workers).
 - Economic costs such as acting as a deterrent to businesses coming to London, or staying here, and financial penalties for non-compliance with air quality limits.
 - Persistent poor air quality may affect the longer term health of the City population.
10. With the aim of reducing the risk, the City is implementing the policies contained within the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015-2020. The department is also working jointly with the Department of the Built Environment to investigate ways of reducing those factors which create air pollution. A number of other actions have been undertaken during Period 2 and a selection of these is shown in the Enforcement Activity Report at Appendix C.

Financial and Risk Implications

11. The end of November 2015 monitoring position for M&CP services covered by the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee is provided at Appendix D. This reveals a net underspend to date for PH&PP of £144k (8.1%) against the overall local risk budget to date of £1.8m for 2015/16.
12. Overall the Director of M&CP is currently forecasting a minimal year end underspend position of £24k (0.9%) for all of the PH&PP City Fund services under his control.
13. The better than budget position at the end of November 2015 is principally due to additional income received at the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre in relation to passports for pets and this is shown in Appendix D, which sets out a detailed financial analysis of each individual division of service relating to this Committee, for the services the Director of M&CP supports.
14. Subject to income activity achieving projected levels, the Director of M&CP anticipates this current better than budget position will reduce to a minimal projected year end underspend. This is mostly due to overspends on Port Offices & Launches for dilapidation costs for the vacated Thamesport office; engine replacement costs relating to the breakdown of the launch; and reductions in projected income levels for Common Veterinary Entry Documents (CVEDs) and Organic Certificates, which are partly offset by additional Common Entry Document (CED) income.
15. Due to overall underspends currently projected for M&CP, a funding transfer from the Products of Animal Origin (POAO) reserve is not currently required; should the outturn forecast for the year move into a deficit, then it may be used to balance the outturn for the Department overall.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. The monitoring of KPIs and improvement objectives across the Division links to all three Corporate Plan Strategic Aims and to the five themes of the City Together Strategy.

Consultees

17. The Town Clerk and the Chamberlain have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Performance Management Report Period 2 2015-16
- Appendix B – Progress against Key Objectives Period 2 2015-16
- Appendix C – Enforcement Activity Period 2 2015-16
- Appendix D – Financial Statements: Department of Markets and Consumer Protection, Port Health & Public Protection Division

Background Papers

Port Health & Public Protection Business Plan 2015-2018
(*PH&ES Committee 5 May 2015*)

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