

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

MIKE HILL, CABINET MEMBER for COMMUNITY SERVICES

DECISION NO:

16/00048

For publication

Key decision: No

TRADING STANDARDS – BUSINESS CHARGING POLICY

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community Services, I propose to agree:

1. the introduction of a charging policy for the provision of advice to businesses by the Trading Standards team.
2. that the charging policy be as set out in option 3 of the report; the first hour free for tailored advice to a maximum of one hour (for the lifetime of the business) and £70 per hour thereafter
3. that the service will provide fully chargeable advice to businesses located outside of the County of Kent
4. to explore opportunities to work collaboratively with other authorities and to delegate the decision to undertake such arrangements where appropriate to the Head of Trading Services in consultation with myself as Cabinet Member for Community Services

Governance:

With the exception of any specific delegations provided for in the decision text the Executive Scheme of Delegation for Officers set out in Appendix 2 Part 4 of the Constitution (and the directorate schemes of sub-delegation made thereunder) provides the governance pathway for the implementation of this decision by officers as it assumes at 1.9 of the scheme that once a Member-level decision has been taken, the implementation of that decision will normally be delegated to officers, so that multiple Member decisions are not required in respect of the same matter.

In this instance, the Head of Trading Services will be the lead officer seeking to ensure that all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision are undertaken.

Reason(s) for decision:

In order to standardise the charging structure for advice provided by the Trading Standards team, to allow for improved services tailored to the individual needs of businesses and to generate income whilst still maintaining protections for the most vulnerable businesses to seek and receive advice without charge.

In addition the decision will allow KCC to explore, and enter, collaborative working arrangements with other councils where appropriate.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee will consider the matter at the meeting scheduled for the 17 May and the Cabinet Member will have regard to any comments received on taking the decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Alternative options (No charge and charging without exception) are set out within the report as are the reasons for the recommendation of option 3.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

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signed

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date