

## Governance Directorate

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TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS  
OF THE EXECUTIVE

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MD

7 March 2014

Dear Member

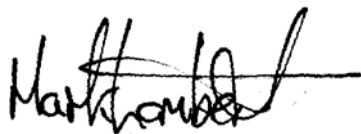
### EXECUTIVE

**MONDAY 10 MARCH 2014 AT 4.00 PM**

I refer further to the Agenda and papers recently circulated for the meeting of the Executive to be held on **Monday 10 March 2014 at 4.00 pm in the Flensburg Room.**

Please find enclosed Excerpt (EEOSP.19/14) from the Minutes of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 27 February 2014 concerning the Environmental Health – Business Support Strategy which was marked “to follow” on the Agenda (Item A.1 refers).

Yours faithfully



Director of Governance

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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2014**

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**EEOSP.19/14 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – BUSINESS SUPPORT STRATEGY**

Having declared an interest Councillor Mitchelson left the meeting and took no part in the discussions of the item.

The Director of Local Environment presented Report LE.01/14 that introduced the Environmental Health Service's Business Support Strategy. The Strategy outlined how the Environmental Health Service would meet the requirements of the revised Regulators' Code 2013 ensuring an open and constructive relationship between the Environmental Health regulatory service and those Carlisle businesses it regulated.

The Environmental Health Manager explained the background to the Strategy and the requirements of the regulators. The Strategy explained how it would comply with the Regulators' Code and should give confidence to businesses that the Environmental Health Service was to protect and help businesses.

There were four areas where the Environmental Health Service would seek to improve to ensure it fully assisted business in growing in a legal, safe and sustainable way. Carlisle Environmental Health Service were responsible for 1200 registered food businesses of all sizes and 2000 retail, leisure and storage businesses for Health and Safety at works.

The Plan had been drafted in consultation with Officers in the Environmental Health Service, the Economic Development Team, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and the County Council.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- *Carlisle has always done a good job in respect of Environmental Health but a Member was concerned that the legislation could affect public safety.*

The Environmental Health Manager explained that in the past it was the business owners' responsibility to comply with the regulations. That compliance ranged from those who weren't aware that the law existed but wished to comply, to owners who just did their own thing regardless of the law. However the majority of people wanted to comply with the law but sometimes needed help to understand what was required of them. The Environmental Health Manager believed that the Council was carrying out their duties well in the past but that there was no communication at a strategic level.

- *Members were concerned about some of the health and safety stories in the press.*

The Environmental Health Manager advised that many of those stories were not related to either the law or the regulators. Many were myths and some of those were now being challenged on the HSE website. Public health and safety was a major priority for the Council and Officers took an interest in all issues relating to public health and safety.

- *There are still some problems in respect of public health. Was there sufficient staff available to do everything that was required?*

The Environmental Health Manager advised that staff did the best they could with the resources available. There had been one successful prosecution recently and Officers liaised with market stall holders and carried out inspections at Local Authority events. The Environmental Health Manager was pleased with the level of support from Senior Officers but issues would be challenging for Local Government. Officers would look at how to intervene to tackle areas of greater risk.

The Director of Local Environment acknowledged the quality of the work of Officers and the support of the Legal Department. A lot of work had been undertaken regarding education and raising awareness of issues and providing businesses not normally exposed to Environmental Health issues.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder paid tribute to the work of the Environmental Health Officers. The Portfolio Holder advised that the Supporting Business Through Better Regulation document would be available on the Council's website and would be considered by the Executive at their meeting on 10 April 2014.

RESOLVED – 1) That Report GD.08/14 – Environmental Performance of the Council be noted.

2) That Members welcomed the strategy and commended Officers for their work in protecting the residents of Carlisle.

Councillor Mitchelson returned to the meeting.