

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

Report By: Best Value Officer

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the progress of the Commercial Enforcement Review.

Financial Implications

2. There are no financial implications until the selection of the preferred option after the option appraisal part of the review process.

Any expenditure relating to the review will be met from existing budgets.

Background

3. At the previous Scrutiny Committee in June, Councillor Mills and Councillor Ashton were chosen to sit on the Challenge Panel in the review team.
4. Following a meeting with Councillor Mills it was concluded that Markets & Fairs does not sit with the rest of the services under this review so will therefore be considered to form part of the In-depth Scrutiny Review of Property instead.
5. A situation report outlining Commercial Enforcement and the issues facing it is attached as appendix 1.
6. Street Trading was to be kept within the scope of this review but it has also been included as part of a recent review of Economic Development which is the reason it was transferred from Economic Development to Markets and Fairs. It makes sense to ensure that the improvements relating to Street Trading made as part of the Economic Development have been successful rather than reviewing Street Trading again.
7. It was felt that much of the information collected from benchmarking and consultation activities was out of date and so more relevant information is being sought. The service has also moved on following last years assessments using the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Excellence Model. All of the staff have been given the opportunity to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the service, Division and Directorate.
8. There has been time pressure on officers during the process of externalising Herefordshire Commercial Services which has created a small delay. The need for more up to date information has meant that the Option Appraisal stage should be completed in time to report to Scrutiny Committee in November 2003. This would still allow the improvement plan to be formulated and progressed by the end of the year.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Bob Barker, Best Value Officer
on 01432 260985

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee note the report and comment on, where appropriate, the progress of the review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None