

**Draft response: The reviews of the delivery of Trading Standards**

Buckinghamshire and Surrey County Councils have created a new shared Trading Standards service. The service is overseen by a Joint Committee where both Councils are represented by the relevant Cabinet member.

The Joint Committee has discussed the reviews of Trading Standards that are currently being undertaken. We welcome the recognition of the significance and impact of the Trading Standards service in protecting residents and in supporting businesses. This is a central priority for us in Buckinghamshire and in Surrey.

We are however concerned about the number of different reviews currently running in parallel. We believe that the reviews need to work together to reach a common understanding of the issues. That way they are more likely to deliver results which will be supported by both central and local government, and which will improve the impact of the service and hence the outcomes for local residents and businesses.

We recognise the picture of significant reductions in resources over recent years, outlined in recent work from CTSI, and the increasing postcode lottery of service provision in some parts of the country. We don't believe that provides any reason to consider alternative delivery models outside of local government.

We believe that it is vital that the Trading Standards Service remains part of local government. It makes a major contribution to delivering local priorities, in protecting residents and supporting local businesses. In doing so it achieves much more than it otherwise could by being part of the network of local government services.

Our own model, creating a new shared service, is one part of the solution to the current issues facing the service nationally. We have brought together two successful teams to ensure we can continue to provide excellent services whilst also meeting the financial challenges that face us.

Central and local government should support the creation of more shared Trading Standards services, creating a network of strategic services across the UK and in all regions. This can build on the network of shared services that already exist.

Government and local authorities should work together to explore ways to better encourage, practically support, and incentivise the creation of shared Trading Standards services.

In addition, in order to help address variations in service delivery or the potential for enforcement gaps, we believe that Government should build upon existing commissioning approaches. It should use both National Trading Standards and the regional Trading Standards co-ordinating groups, to channel resources to tackle any particular issues of national concern. This has already proved successful in areas such as animal feed, and in relation to tobacco control, and has scope to be developed further into other key policy areas for central government.

**Richard Walsh** - Cabinet Member for Localities and Community Wellbeing, Surrey  
**Martin Philips** - Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, Buckinghamshire.

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