

**RESIDENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

2009/10

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

Proposed Area for Review

Counterfeit Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods

Aim of the review

To review and consider improvements to the Council's arrangements for combating the issue of Counterfeit Cosmetics and Illegally Imported Foods.

Draft Terms of Reference

- 1. To review the Council's statutory duties in relation to illegal cosmetics and illegally imported food at Border Controls and at Whole sale/retail.**
- 2. To examine the role of the Food Health and Safety Team**
- 3. To investigate the Food Standards Inspection process including checks for composition and labelling of all foods**
- 4. To review the steps taken to matters relating to imported foods**
- 5. To identify what checks are in place for discovering illegal cosmetics**
- 6. To make recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate**

Background and importance

- To investigate procedures in place to prevent the sale of illegal cosmetic to Hillingdon residents
- To establish measure in place by the Council to protect Hillingdon residents from fraudulent or deceptive practices which may be misleading in the sale of imported foods.

Reasons for the review

At its last meeting on 8th October 2009, the Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee considered that it had been a long time since this service area had been reviewed.

In order to provide initial information to the Committee to help them in their review, officers have prepared 3 briefing notes covering:

Appendix B1 – Imported Illegal Cosmetics

Appendix B2 – Imported Food – Border Controls

Appendix B3 – Imported Food – Whole sale and Retail

Who is this review covering?

1. All people living or working in Hillingdon and visitors to the borough.
2. Environment and Consumer Protection:
 - Trading Standards
 - Imported Food Office - Border Controls
 - Food Health and Safety
3. External partners e.g. UK Border Agency and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Key issues

1. Concerns about imported illegal cosmetics?
2. What effective measures are in place in dealing with illegal consignments?
3. What is the scale of the illegally imported foods in Hillingdon and what implications are there for public safety?
4. How is the problem of unlicensed small food business addressed in ensuring compliance of food legislation?

Methodology

The Committee will examine background documents and receive evidence from officers and case studies of successful prosecutions.

Relevant Documents

To be provided at the review process.

Witnesses/evidence providers

Officers, Border agency staff and HMRC

Connected work (recently completed, planned or ongoing)

- Intelligence work undertaken through the Council's Home Leads companies
- National and regional initiatives which draw on intelligence gathered from across the UK
- New database introduced in April 2009 (to distinguish between officer activity on imported foods to enable easier reporting)

Proposed timeframe & milestones

Members will decide the length of the review process. It is likely this will be a short review.