

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Community Safety Committee****23 November 2016****Regulatory Services in The Environment Service  
2015/16 Performance****Report by Director (Environment)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report highlights the community safety work carried out by the Environment Service's Regulatory Services team in 2015/16, and sets out future priorities for the team.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES****Regulatory Services**

- 1.1 Regulatory Services within Environmental and Consumer Services, in the Environment Service, cover activities such as Environmental Health, Food Safety, Trading Standards, Animal Feedstuffs, workplace Health and Safety, Private Water Supplies, Contaminated Land, Animal Health & Welfare, and various licenses and permissions.
- 1.2 A chart of the management and service structure can be found in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The purpose of these regulatory activities is to meet the Council's objectives for ensuring the safety of our community, protecting the environment, and ensuring a prosperous economy. These teams are also required to comply with certain statutory enforcement duties placed on the Council. Several elements of the Service's work are determined and monitored by national bodies such as Food Standards Scotland, the Health & Safety Executive and the Scottish Government Drinking Water Quality Regulator.
- 1.4 These regulatory activities are part of the overall public protection response of Community Panning partners, dealing principally with hazards presented by physical and environmental factors.
- 1.5 Regulation is an important part of the context within which businesses operate, and people co-exist. Effective and well-targeted regulation by the Council plays an important role in ensuring the economic well-being of Perth and Kinross by protecting the vulnerable and the environment. This includes promoting equality, helping raise the standards of service, providing the platform for fair competition and giving reassurance to consumers and businesses alike. As such, regulation is an enabler to economic activity.

- 1.6 To illustrate the range of activities covered by Regulatory Services, the following represents some of the main activities of the teams during 2015/16. In addition to these activities, the teams were involved in the planning and monitoring of legal compliance at major events throughout Perth and Kinross including The Scottish Game Fair, T in the Park, Rewind Festival and the Blair Atholl Horse Trials. A high level of resource was dedicated to these additional activities which, although highly demanding on team capacity, nevertheless proved to be rewarding. Through their involvement, the team were able to play an active part in enhancing the reputation of Perth and Kinross, as well as contributing to the economic wellbeing of the area.

### Trading Standards

- 1.7 The Trading Standards team is responsible for enforcement of a wide range of consumer protection legislation including fair trading, weights and measures and product safety. The aim of the service is to safeguard consumers, particularly vulnerable groups, and business interests, by promoting a fair, safe and healthy trading environment for the benefit of communities. A total of 2,439 service requests were received and allocated to the Trading Standards team.
- 1.8 Since April 2012, the national service - Citizens Advice Consumer Service (CACS), has dealt with all first tier consumer complaints via their dedicated hotline. Our Trading Standards team deals with criminal allegations and complex complaints requiring officer input and investigation.
- 1.9 In 2015/16, a total of 1738 enquiries were received by Consumer Advice Consumer Service (CACS) from consumers in Perth and Kinross. This was a decrease of 122 (6%) compared to 2014/15. Of those received by CACS and passed to Trading Standards, 262 required further investigation/intervention by our staff (compared to 180 in 14/15, an increase of 45%, following a similar increase the previous year).
- 1.10 In terms of responding to enquiries, service requests and routine inspection activities, the team dealt with the following in 2015/16:

	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Service Requests	126	115	∨
Consumer Complaints	180	262	∧
Inspections and Petrol Safety	432	596	∧

## Fair Trading

- 1.11 The perpetrators of "scams" (e.g. fraudulent schemes to extract money for non-existent services or financial opportunities) tend to target vulnerable individuals in our communities. To help those chronic victims of scams, the team signed up to the National Scams Hub Project in December 2013. This project, based in East Sussex Trading Standards, uses various sources of intelligence to identify individuals who are being targeted by scam mail.
- 1.12 Details of 61 potential victims identified by the East Sussex project as residing in Perth and Kinross were referred to the team in 15/16. Working in partnership with Police Scotland and the Council's Social Work Services and Adult Protection teams, each of the individuals identified was contacted to help prevent them suffering from the kind of financial abuse and distress that the perpetrators of scams cause. The majority of those contacted were found to be receiving scam mail, but were not responding to it. Most recipients found these mailings created alarm and annoyance and were pleased to receive advice and information on how to deal with them.
- 1.13 Of the 40% of those found to be victims of scam mail, there was a wide range of losses identified. Those who had only replied to one or two scams had lost only £30-£40. However, 7 chronic victims of scams were identified each of whom had losses in excess of £25,000.
- 1.14 Nuisance telephone sales calls are a common irritant; however, they are a serious problem for older and vulnerable consumers. They may be confused by telemarketing calls that they receive, agree to buy products they don't want or unwittingly change their utility providers, and are therefore open to being taken advantage of by unscrupulous sales people and scammers. In 2014/15, Trading Standards took part in a trial which saw the installation of 10 telephone call blocking devices in the homes of vulnerable people in the area. The units performed extremely well by effectively blocking all but genuine calls from friends, relatives and other agencies the resident actually wanted to speak to.
- 1.15 Funding for a further 15 units was secured in 2015/2016 from the Community Safety Partnership. On average, 64% of calls the consumers receive are nuisance calls which are successfully blocked by the units, (with 22% of those coming from overseas numbers). This is an average of just over 2 nuisance calls per person per day, with evidence now suggesting that the older the consumer is the more nuisance calls they are likely to receive.
- 1.16 The carer for one recipient of a call blocker device commented that the device provided peace of mind to a chronic victim, remarking that the installation saved the victim from being scammed out of large sums of money.
- 1.17 During 2015/2016, the team gave 10 Scams Awareness Training sessions to 122 carers of vulnerable adults, with a further 15 Scams Awareness presentations to 393 members of various community groups. This included specialist seminars for bank workers and legal professionals.

- 1.18 Following the Edinburgh New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) action (test case taken by Crown Office), TSS (Trading Standards Scotland) and SCOTSS (Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland) initiated a national, targeted approach (Operation Alexander) to tackle the sale of NPS (Legal Highs). Perth & Kinross Trading Standards took part in the project which resulted in a batch of product being voluntarily surrendered by one of two premises selling NPS, in Perth consisting of a total of 201 packets of NPS.
- 1.19 The other premises continued to offer NPS for sale in terms of the agreed protocol, and were re-visited on 15 December 2015 (accompanied by police officers). During that visit, 334 packets of product were seized under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR).
- 1.20 Samples from a locally based, 'head shop', have been sent, via TSS, both for analysis and intelligence collation purposes (by Police Scotland Forensic Service). Costs of analysis are being met by the Scottish Government. One premises has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal with a view to seeking a forfeiture order under the GPSR.
- 1.21 91 fake Dolce & Gabbana sunglasses were seized from a trader at T in the Park 2015. They were signed over for destruction and a formal undertaking under the Enterprise Act 2003 sought, as were a number of henna products for sale at the event. The products did not bear the requisite labelling (importer details, ingredient list, best before date) leading to the possibility that the products may also contain unsafe ingredients.
- 1.22 Trading Standards officers carried out a series of seminars/training sessions with Police Scotland on the use of Trading Standards legislation in tackling rogue traders/bogus doorstep workers. Over 100 police constables attended the events in November /December 2015 and were provided with guidance on legislation, powers available and contact details for further advice. The initiative has led to an increase in joint working with Police, increased routine contact with officers and successful intervention by Police Scotland, disrupting the activities of rogue traders.

### **Product Safety**

- 1.23 194 visits were carried out to small retailers to ensure compliance with the prohibition on the display of tobacco and tobacco products under the Tobacco and Primary Medical Care (Scotland) Act 2010 which came into force in April 2015.
- 1.24 Trading Standards and Environmental Health Officers took part in joint visits as part of the national Operation Opson on behalf of Food Standards Scotland, looking primarily at the sale of fake & unsafe vodka. The opportunity was also taken to look for evidence of illicit tobacco and other drinks. A total of 11 premises were visited. All samples taken were found to be of the nature demanded by the consumer.

## Animal Welfare

1.25 The Animal Welfare team was formed in 2012 by combining the activities of the existing Animal Health Officer and Dog Control Officers to increase the capacity available to enforce both animal health and dog control legislation.

1.26 In 2015/16, the team dealt with 2353 customer enquiries including:

	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Dog Fouling Complaints	447	471	^
Stray Dogs	235	256	^
Dangerous Dogs / Control of Dogs	154	126	v
Dog Control Notices	10	17	^
Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notices	6	75	^
Dog Bin Requests	71	109	^
'Safe and Sound' Training	44	31	v
Livestock Enquiries	305	318	^

1.27 Following training and supply of equipment from the Dogs' Trust, officers were able to carry out free microchipping of dogs at the various events they attend. During 2015/16, in anticipation of the legislation requiring all dogs to be microchipped from April 2016, a number of events were held to offer free microchipping for local residents which resulted in 910 dogs being 'chipped'.

1.28 The team carried out extensive investigations into three cases of the illegal import of dogs under the Animal Health Act 1981 and The Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974. The first case involved the importation from Ukraine via Poland of three Bernese Mountain Dog puppies. The second related to the importation of a Doberman puppy from Turkey, and the third involved two pugs and a bulldog from Bulgaria. Action taken resulted in all dogs undergoing the legally required periods of quarantine (at the owners' expense).

1.29 Following the refusal of the Licensing Committee to grant a licence for the keeping of wild boar in terms of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 on 19 February 2015, the applicant lodged an appeal against the decision with Perth Sheriff Court. A date for hearing the appeal was set for 28 September 2015.

1.30 Prior to the hearing date, the applicant intimated that he was withdrawing the appeal, and disposing of the animals. Officers maintained a watch on the situation and during several visits noted that the animals had been removed from the premises (the majority to the knackery).

- 1.31 During the lead up to the disposal of the beasts, it was noted that there was evidence that butchered wild boar carcasses had been fed to the remaining pigs. A report to the Procurator Fiscal alleging offences under Animal By-Products legislation was made. However, the Procurator-Fiscal decided that it was not in the public interest to proceed.

### Food Safety

- 1.32 The Food Safety team is responsible for the delivery of a Food Law enforcement service. This service has to meet the requirements of Food Standards Scotland's Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement to protect and promote the health, safety and wellbeing of communities. This team's remit covers all aspects of food hygiene and food standards legislation as well as investigating food poisoning and communicable diseases.
- 1.33 Food hygiene inspections continue to be targeted at implementing Food Standard Scotland's Guidance on E Coli 0157 — Control of Cross Contamination. Prioritised inspections are targeted at those businesses which pose the greatest risk of food contamination with E Coli O157, due to the handling of raw meat and vegetables alongside ready to eat foods. In 2015/16, the activities of the team included:

Food Hygiene Standards	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Programmed Food Hygiene Inspections	515	744	^
Revisits to check	173	160	∨
Hygiene Improvement Notices	13	16	^
Remedial Action Notices	6	17	^
Food Standards Inspections	616	498	∨

- 1.34 98% of businesses were accredited as a Pass (i.e. Satisfactory) on the publicly available Food Hygiene Information Scheme. Perth & Kinross businesses have the second highest pass rate in Scotland.
- 1.35 498 programmed food standards inspections were carried out (compared to 616 in 14/15) to examine compliance with compositional requirements and labelling of foodstuffs. A total of 341 food samples were submitted for microbiological examination or chemical analysis. These gave the following results:

Samples	None Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Followed Up
Composition/Labelling	147	129	18	18
Microbiological	194	139	55	55

- 1.36 The inspection and sampling for food standards and microbiological contamination helps protect the public against unhygienic foodstuffs, which could result in major public health incidents and ensures consumer protection against adulterated food.
- 1.37 All unsatisfactory samples were investigated and the necessary improvements were actioned by the businesses concerned.
- 1.38 The team also worked closely with NHS Tayside to carry out 69 infectious disease investigations (based on notifications from the Consultant in Public Health Medicine's office) to identify likely causes of infection, and manage the potential risk of spread of disease, for infections such as Salmonella, E *Coli* 0157, Dysentery and Cryptosporidium.

Infectious Diseases	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Campylobacter	272	216	∨
Cryptosporidium	17	15	∨
Dysentery	1	3	∧
E <i>Coli</i> 0157	14	5	∨
Giardiasis	3	8	∧
Hepatitis (All Types)	7	11	∧
Legionella	2	3	∧
Salmonella	15	17	∧
Cyclosporine	-	1	>
Typhoid	-	1	>

- 1.39 The Food Safety team gained the UK Government's Customer Service Excellence Award for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in June 2015. The Customer Service Excellence operates on three levels:
- As a driver of continuous improvement, in relation to customer focused service delivery, identifying areas and methods for improvement;
  - As a skills development tool by allowing individuals and teams to acquire new skills in the area of customer focus and customer engagement
  - As an independent validation of achievement by allowing organisations to seek formal accreditation to the Customer Service Excellence Standard. The team received no "partial compliances" or "non compliances" against the 57 elements of the award criteria, and were deemed as achieving 'compliance plus' in ten areas, for achieving customer service beyond the standard.

## Health and Safety Enforcement

- 1.40 This team is responsible for ensuring the safety of employees and customers, by enforcing the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act in sector specific workplaces according to perceived risks based on data provided by the Health and Safety Executive.
- 1.41 The work of the Health and Safety team helps to protect the wellbeing of employees, customers and the economic viability of businesses as the financial/reputational costs of accidents and occupational ill health can be considerable.
- 1.42 Key figures for Great Britain (2014/15/16) are as follows:

National Statistics in Great Britain	2014/15
Person suffering from work related illness	1.2 million
Mesothelioma deaths due to past asbestos exposure (2014)	2,515
Killed at work (2015/16)	144
Employees injured and reported under RIDDOR	76,000
Injuries at work	611,000
Working days lost due to injury	27.3 million
Total cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2013/14)	14.3 billion

- 1.43 The team carried out 173 risk based inspections of work premises with 99 accident investigations in relation to:

	2015/16
Legionella controls in water systems i.e. spas and swimming pools	56
Musculoskeletal injuries and health risks from the use of acrylic nail products	14
Falls in bars with underground cellars	44
Asbestos control in older buildings	59
Total Number of Accident Investigations	99

## Environmental Health

- 1.44 The Environmental Health (EH) team aim is to deliver an Environmental Health enforcement service to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of the communities in Perth and Kinross through action on the physical environment and people's life circumstances:



1.45 During 2015/16, the EH team dealt with the following:

Environmental Health	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Planning Applications	694	670	∨
Pest Control Complaints	177	170	∨
Disrepair / Dampness / Other Conditions	1867	1643	∨
Public Health Funerals	43	39	∨

- 1.46 170 pest control complaints and enquiries were received (compared to 177 in 2014/15), resulting in 62 requests for remedial action (predominantly in respect of rat or mouse infestations) to be carried out by the Council's pest control contractor.
- 1.47 1,643 service requests were dealt with in relation to disrepair, dampness and other conditions in relation to private housing conditions, and public health concerns about drainage and refuse, smoke complaints, noise nuisance etc. This compares to 1,867 for 2014/15.
- 1.48 39 funerals were organised and funded in terms of the National Assistance Act 1948 (a drop of 11% on the previous year). It is the duty of the Council in terms of the Act to make and fund such arrangements where any deceased person does not have family, friends or sufficient funding to organise a burial or cremation for that person.
- 1.49 Since 2002, the EH team have been dealing with the unlawful presentation of human waste on a private road end at Madderty. The presentation of this waste is in contravention of an ongoing abatement notice served under The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Although charged twice previously and imprisoned for non-payment of fines, the resident continued his campaign of placing barrels of human waste at the road end much to the upset of neighbours and the local community. In October 2015, the resident was again found guilty of breaching the aforementioned notice but was given a 6 month deferred sentence to see if he would comply with the Sheriff's recommendations i.e. to come to an agreement re uplift of his waste with Perth and Kinross Council. Consequently, he placed barrels of waste at the road end during this period and received a fine in February 2016.
- 1.50 The development of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for Crieff was a key objective for Regulatory Services in 2015/16. A consultant was appointed in November 2015 and a further assessment of air quality in Crieff has now been completed. The findings from this exercise will be fed into the stakeholder group to be established in 2016/17 to progress development of a draft AQAP.

- 1.51 A successful bid was made to the Scottish Government in 2015/16 for funding to implement air quality measures for areas in Perth City and Crieff with the sum of £100,000 being granted. This enabled the instigation of various air quality initiatives, with approximately £60,000 being used for the further promotion of walking and cycling to school as part of School Travel Plans. A further £40,000 was used to complete an upgrade of the bus stop facilities on Crieff High Street in the vicinity of James Square. These improvements will facilitate better interchange between the various bus services that serve the High Street. This is due to the upgrading of the boarding/alighting areas and installation of larger disability compliant passenger waiting shelters.
- 1.52 16 temporary Gypsy/Traveller encampments were engaged by officers (same figure as 2014/15), the majority of which moved on informally within a reasonable time period. Many of the stop-off sites on Council land have been unacceptable to all parties, as they were mainly public car parks, or Park & Ride sites.

### **Land Quality (Contaminated Land)**

- 1.53 The Land Quality team implements the Council's strategy to deal with the legacy of areas of land that may have, through their past use, become contaminated by virtue of the processes conducted on them. The Council has a statutory duty in terms of Part II A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to inspect its area to identify those sites that have the highest potential for causing harm to human health and the environment. Approximately 1,700 sites in Perth and Kinross have been risk assessed in order to apply a classification scheme for prioritisation. These sites are then dealt with as follows:
- Phase 1 — a detailed desktop study is carried out which looks at any archived information on the site's former uses, to form an assessment of the contamination potential.
  - Phase 2 — an invasive site investigation (trial pits, boreholes and sampling) is carried out to determine the presence, nature and extent of any contamination
  - Phase 3 — Where appropriate, remediation works are carried out to remove any threat to human health or the environment
- 1.54 In 2015/16, five phase 1 reports were completed for Part IIA – Bullionfield Invergowrie, Quarrymill Scone, Westfield Mill, Cromwellpark Linen Mill and Methven Gasworks. A further report was carried out for Property Services for WA Croles site in Blairgowrie. Of these 6 reports, 3 are assessed as medium-high risk and 3 as low-medium risk. No further action is required at this point in time.
- 1.55 Further phase 2 gas monitoring was carried out at the former Newhouse Landfill site during the September 2015 – March 2016 period (frozen ground at certain times of the year caused some delays to the monitoring programme). The data gathered will be reviewed and reported on in 2016/17.

- 1.56 The results from the phase 2 investigation at Comrie gasworks identified a potential risk to human health, property and the water environment. However, as the property was being run as a holiday let at that time the risk to human health was considered to be reduced. The property was sold in February 2016 and is now being used as a private residence. Due to this change in occupational circumstances, further work at this site has become a higher priority and will be carried out in 2016/17.
- 1.57 Groundwater monitoring at the former gasworks site at Charles Street, Perth continued in 2015/16. Based on findings from this monitoring work, it is considered that the contamination plume under the site of the former Kinnoull Club is not migrating off site and therefore does not pose any ongoing threat of groundwater pollution beyond the site boundaries. In addition, DNA analysis was carried out to identify the microbes present at the site. Certain microbial species are more efficient at breaking down hydrocarbon contamination than others. As such, this analysis allowed an assessment of whether or not it is likely that the contamination will be broken down naturally without the need for any intervention. The analyst's report confirmed that the 'right' types of microbes are present. Based on the fact that the plume is not believed to be moving and that there is sufficient microbial activity to breakdown the contamination, it is considered that there is no requirement for any further remedial action to be taken by PKC. Annual groundwater monitoring will be carried out to confirm progress of this natural remediation process. The part of the gasworks site to the rear of the Scott Street flats will require some remedial work. This will likely involve a scrape of the surface and reinstatement with clean material in 2016/17.
- 1.58 Further investigation was carried out in the gardens of two properties in St Magdalenes Road. The purpose of this work was to confirm the extent of the contamination in these gardens, which formed part of the former landfill area occupied by the Glenearn Road houses demolished by Housing Services in February 2016. Risk assessment of the results confirmed a potential risk to human health and therefore remedial work will be required. The soil in the back gardens of both properties will be removed to a depth of 600mm and reinstated with clean material. Work at the site is being carried out in conjunction with Housing Services, who are leading the overall project. It is expected that remedial work will be completed in 2016/17.
- 1.59 In December 2015, the Land Quality team received a report from SEPA of an area of landfill being washed out into the River Ericht in Blairgowrie. The area of land was formerly leased by Blairgowrie and Rattray town council for use as a landfill. A joint site visit was carried out when exposed waste in the riverbank could clearly be seen. In February 2016, a site investigation was carried out. Soil analysis confirmed there were no contaminants present at levels which were of concern, and based on this, it is considered that there is no imminent risk of water pollution from the landfill.

After discussion with the Council's Legal Services, it was decided to seek a further legal opinion from a specialist in environmental law with regard to establishing liability for the repair of the banking. The opinion suggested that Perth and Kinross Council would not necessarily have any liability. However, it was recommended that Perth and Kinross Council continue to work with the land owner and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency on identifying an engineering solution to contain and cap the waste at the former land fill. This issue will continue into 2016/17.

### **Drinking Water Quality**

- 1.60 The Private Water Team is responsible for duties detailed in legislation governing the quality of private water supplies. (i.e. supplies other than those provided by Scottish Water). As well as being a source of acute gastro - intestinal conditions (such as Campylobacter, Salmonella, E Coli 0157 and Cryptosporidium), long term consumption of water contaminated with harmful metals or minerals can cause chronic illness. Over 20% of the samples taken by the team fail to meet bacterial standards. Minimising sources of contamination and ensuring suitable disinfection treatment is fitted, protects the health and wellbeing of those people served by a private water supply.
- 1.61 There are over 1,500 private water supplies in Perth & Kinross. The Water Team has statutory duties for over 260 Type A supplies which serve commercial or public use premises or serve large numbers of dwellings (i.e. at least 20 houses); this protects visitors to the area as many of these supplies serve holiday accommodation. These supplies are subject to a mandatory annual sampling programme.
- 1.62 Public health is further enhanced by sampling and risk assessments carried out on 1,250 Type B private water supplies that serve domestic properties. These are not part of the statutory sampling programme. However, the team responds to requests from consumers for a number of reasons (concerns over water quality, suspected contamination, property sales etc.).
- 1.63 Any owner or occupier of premises served by a private supply can apply to the Water Team to obtain Scottish Government funded grants to the value of up to £800 per property for improvements to their supply. The team have employed various methods of engaging with customers to inform them of available grants. Examples include promoting grant aid on the sides of Council vehicles, and posting notices on village notice boards.

1.64 In 2015/16, the team dealt with the following:

Private Water Supplies	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Type A Supply Risk Assessment	24	7	v
Type B Supply Risk Assessment	40	19	v
Type A Supply – Statutory Samples	288	286	v
Type B Supply – Statutory Samples	69	67	v
Grant applications to improve drinking water	*40	**38	v
Private Water enquiries	636	575	v

\*To more than 87 properties resulting in grant payment of £67k.

\*\*To more than 131 properties resulting in grant payment of £103k.

## 2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The teams in Regulatory Services seek to improve their performance and impact, through development of their team plans. Key areas for activity during 2016/17 are as follows:
- 2.2 Workforce Planning - The Council requires to have sufficient numbers of suitably qualified, professional staff to be authorised to carry out the variety of functions within Regulatory Services. This is to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory duties appropriately, and to the satisfaction of regulators of our services, e.g. Scottish Government, Food Standards Scotland, Health and Safety Executive etc.
- 2.3 The 'grow your own' approach to workforce planning will continue to be supported. Currently there are 4 technical level officers within Regulatory Services working towards gaining the MSc in Environmental Health via a distance learning programme with the University of Derby. Two of the officers are entering their final year with the remaining two entering their second year of a 3 year course. Successful completion of the MSc will give these officers the appropriate qualification to become Environmental Health Officers.
- 2.4 In addition, a Trading Standards Technician has completed 75% of study for the Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards via the Trading Standards Institute Academy. On completion of this qualification, this officer will have the appropriate qualification to become a Trading Standards Officer.
- 2.5 These proactive steps will maximise the opportunity to recruit from within the organisation should professional vacancies arise.

- 2.6 Funding, at the necessary level, to create the proposed new vocational qualification of Regulatory Services Modern Apprentice has been “crowd sourced” from 10 Scottish Local Authorities and a project steering group has been set up in order to take the project forward. The steering group consists of representatives from each of the contributing Local Authorities, Skills Development Scotland and the relevant Sector Skills Council; Skills for Local Government. An appropriate project plan will now be developed to progress this innovative approach to succession planning.
- 2.7 Following a noticeable increase in the issues about the progressing communal repairs in private sector housing within Perth and Kinross, from tenants, owners and landlords, a report on a way forward for dealing with substandard housing in the private sector will be prepared for submission to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- 2.8 The Environmental Health team will work with other service teams to deliver further air quality improvement actions using £100,000 of Scottish Government funding in 2016/17.
- 2.9 In December 2015, the Scottish Government launched ‘Cleaner Air for Scotland –The Road to a Healthier Future’ (CAFS). This is an overarching strategy which recognises the need for a national partnership approach in order to improve air quality in Scotland. CAFS details a national framework seeking further reductions in air quality in line with statutory responsibilities and proposes the introduction of a National Low Emission Framework. This will set out procedures for Local Authorities to determine effective measures to reduce air pollution. The EH team will establish a cross service working group in 2016/17 to determine the Council’s strategy for integrated working towards air quality improvement in line with the CAFS recommendations.
- 2.10 Following the completion of the further assessment of air quality in Crieff, a stakeholder group, including other Council Services and Transport Scotland will examine the consultant’s findings and recommendations from other partners. This relates to possible improvement actions aimed at reducing the NO2 and Particulate exceedances being encountered in Crieff High Street. Potential improvement measures will be detailed in a draft AQAP which will be screened by the stakeholder group before submission to the Environment Committee. If agreed, the draft will be made open to consultation with all stakeholder groups and members of the public before a final draft is submitted to the Environment Committee for approval.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- i. Endorses the activities of the Environment Service and Regulatory Services in protecting communities within Perth and Kinross.
  - ii. Requests the Director (Environment) to bring back a further report on the work of Regulatory Services in a year’s time.

## Authors

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## Approved

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Barbara Renton	Director (Environment)	7 October 2016

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes/None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>Yes</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>Yes</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>Yes</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>Yes</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This report contributes to the local outcomes of:

- i. Our communities and people experiencing inequalities will have improved quality of life, life chances and health.
- ii. Our people will have improved health and wellbeing.
- iii. Our area will have a sustainable natural and built environment.

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. They are as follows:

- i. Giving every child the best start in life;
- ii. Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- iii. Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- iv. Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- v. Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

1.3 This report contributes to objective (v).



## 2. Resource Implications

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising directly from this report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising directly from this report.

## 3. Assessments

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

- 3.2 This report has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. In respect of this proposal no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. There are no sustainability issues associated within the proposals of this report.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.5 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### Risk

- 3.6 There are no corporate risks associated with the proposals contained within this report.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance and the Head of Democratic Services have been consulted on the content of this report and are in agreement with the proposals.

### External

- 4.2 No external consultation was required in the preparation of this report.

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 Communication will be ongoing with relevant internal and external stakeholders.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 Report to the Environment Committee in August 2013 entitled "Dog Fouling in Perth and Kinross, Report Number 13/419.

## **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – TES Regulatory Services Structure