

OVERVIEW OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under my Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio:
 - (a) **Provision of Outdoor Market Stalls** – Cabinet approved changes to the location, appearance and provision of stalls at all open markets in the pedestrianised areas of the Town Centre. The proposed new stalls have been piloted for the general market on Tubwell Row, and have been used for other speciality markets such as the Farmers market. There has also been consultation with traders.

The new stalls are to be purchased by the Council which will also be responsible for their erection and dismantling. Lighting is also to be provided. Consequently, Cabinet approved the charges for stalls at markets to be held within the pedestrian heart for 2007/08.
 - (b) **New Street Cleaner for the Pedestrian Heart** – A new machine has been working in the Town Centre. This new sweeper differs from traditional sweepers in that as well as sweeping it cleans the street as well. Early indications from the Street Scene staff using the machine are that it is proving very useful.
 - (c) **Smoke Free Premises** – A report to Cabinet recommended a strategy and policy to implement those parts of the Health Act that regulate smoking in smoke free premises, places and vehicles. The policy itself follows a risk-based approach to target enforcement activity where it is most beneficial. At time of writing this report Cabinet had not met to consider the report.
 - (d) **Waste Management Contract** – We have commenced the formal procurement process for new waste management services and are currently engaged in competitive dialogue with a number of bidders. Early indications are favourable in that there have been several companies expressing an interest in winning the contract.
2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio:
 - (a) Darlington Environmental Forum held on 5th March
 - (b) Attended the Fairtrade Launch, 9th March
 - (c) Chaired the Performance sub-committee of the Fire and Rescue Authority, held at Darlington Fire Station, 22nd March
 - (d) Briefing meetings with various Directors and Assistant Directors

Councillor Steve Harker

Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio