

**Motherwell, 4 October 2005
at 2 pm.**

**A Meeting of the PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTIVE SERVICES)
SUB-COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McKenna, Convener; Councillors Devine, Gemmell, Gormill, Holloway, Lafferty, McGhee, Pentland and Saunders.

CHAIR

Councillor McKenna (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Committee Services Manager, and Head of Protective Services and Trading Standards Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cassidy, Gordon, Gorman and Wilson.

NATIONAL CONSUMER WEEK 31 OCTOBER TO 4 NOVEMBER 2005

1. There was submitted a report dated 4 October 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising that the theme for this year's National Consumer Week is "Home Safe and Sound" and will focus on a variety of scams that take advantage of unsuspecting consumers as well as highlighting the potential pit falls of buying health products online; (2) reporting that the Trading Standards service receive many enquiries and complaints each year in connection with buying goods online; (3) detailing the scams involved; (4) advising that the campaign in North Lanarkshire will consist of a series of posters produced by the Trading Standards service backed up with consumer leaflets provided by the Office of Fair Trading; (5) outlining the contents of the posters, and (6) reporting that the national launch of the week's activities will take place at the Department of Trade and Industry DTI in London, with national press releases issued by the Trading Standards Institute and that local releases highlighting the issues focused on by the Council will be sent to local media organisations.

Decided: that the report be noted.

PROTECTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES - RESTRICTING ACCESS TO AGE RELATED PRODUCTS

2. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of this Sub-Committee held on 9 August 2005 when the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Enforcement Notice Strategy was detailed, there was submitted a report by the Director of Planning and Environment dated 4 October 2005 (1) reminding Members that the enforcement of legislation for certain age related products is carried out by the Trading Standards Service of the Protective Services Division; (2) detailing the Department's future initiatives in relation to restricting the supply of these products to those under age, by enforcement of the legislation and by educating and working with local retailers, and (3) advising that

an information package "Its Your Call – A Retailer's Guide to Age Restricted Products" has been devised in conjunction with the Trade, Police and NHS Lanarkshire in order to further the education of traders with regard to age restricted products.

Decided: that the report be noted.

DEBT ADVICE PROVISION WITHIN THE TRADING STANDARD SERVICES: A STATISTICAL REPORT

3. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 October 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) reminding Members that the Protective Services Division operates a free, confidential and independent debt counselling service for the community and employees of the Council; (2) advising that the Trading Standards service has a complement of eight Debt Councillors and four Debt Advisers operating within the Department's Consumer and Money Advice Centres, located in Cumbernauld, Coatbridge and Bellshill covering the geographical area of North Lanarkshire; (3) that the staff provide comprehensive guidance and information to clients in order that debt situations can be addressed, and (4) that the staff (a) aimed to maximise income and negotiate with creditors with a view to arranging a repayment schedule agreed by both parties, and (b) assist with the completion of legal forms and represent clients at related Court appearances.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SURVEY OF THE FAT AND SODIUM CONTENTS OF FOODS PURCHASED AS ALTERNATIVES TO SCHOOL MEALS

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 October 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment (1) advising Members of the outcome of a survey of the fat and sodium contents of foods often purchased as alternatives to school meals; (2) that due to the growing concern about the impact of obesity and high salt levels on the health of school children, the West of Scotland Food Liaison Group decided earlier this year to undertake a survey of the fat and salt contents of food purchased as alternative to school meals; (3) that the survey was agreed by Liaison Group Members as a follow-up to a report on school meals in Scotland which was published in January 2005; (4) that the Group also took account of an ongoing initiative known as "Hungry for Success" – A Whole School Approach to School Meals in Scotland, which (a) recognised that school meals have an important role to play in both supporting the nutrient intakes of vulnerable children at risk of malnutrition and aimed to promote healthier eating amongst all Scottish children amongst whom there is a growing prevalence of obesity, and (b) proposed several recommendations including maximum fat and sodium levels in school meals; (5) that Liaison Group members intended to sample a variety of foods from premises known to be frequented by school pupils at lunch time to assess whether fat and sodium levels in these foods were within the recommended levels as set as part of the "Hungry for Success" initiative, and (6) that a copy of the West of Scotland Food Liaison Group report has been placed in the Members' Library.

Decided: that the report be noted.

FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2004/05 - PERFORMANCE REVIEW

5. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 22 February, 2005 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 October 2005 by the Director of Planning and Environment seeking approval of the 2004/05 Performance Review and (1) reminding (a) Members of the requirement for each local authority to produce an annual Food Safety Service

Plan; (b) of a performance review of the previous year's Service Plan that had been conducted; (2) advising (a) that the Food Standards Agency consider the Service Plan and the Performance Review process as key elements in the monitoring process of local authorities food safety enforcement capabilities and activities, and (b) the importance is reflected by the fact that all local authorities are required to seek Committee approval on the Food Safety Plan and subsequent Performance Review, and (3) advising that copies of the 2004/05 Food Safety Service Plan and a Performance Review has been placed in the Members' Library.

Decided: that the report be noted.