

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2013**

**Statement from: Councillor P A Robinson, Executive Councillor for  
Community Safety, Cohesion and Diversity**

### **Trading Standards**

Trading Standards, working in partnership with Police and HMRC, have continued to take steps to tackle the sale of illicit tobacco and alcohol across Lincolnshire. In the last 12 months over 30,000 illicit cigarettes, 15 kilos of hand rolling tobacco and 190 litres of alcohol have been seized and destroyed. These actions have also resulted in 15 premises having their licence to sell alcohol removed and to date 6 criminal prosecutions are underway. This area of work will remain a priority in the next 12 months for the Trading Standards Service.

Following an intensive enforcement programme to tackle the sale of counterfeit products on sale at Eastgate Market in Ingoldmells over the summer months, a number of the cases have now been heard. The sale of counterfeit products such as sportswear, makeup, clothing and electrical goods seriously undermines local businesses and puts consumers at risk from poor quality and unsafe products.

The poor weather experienced in the run up to Christmas has again meant that Trading Standards have been supporting and advising the farming community in ensuring animal welfare standards are upheld. This work, along with the detailed audits of Lincolnshire's animal feed producers, helps to ensure that Lincolnshire's farming economy retains its strong reputation for quality.

### **Community Safety Partnership**

The Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership has agreed to work together to tackle the following problems; Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Road Safety, Drug and Alcohol Harm. Lincolnshire County Council, along with the District Councils, Police, Health, Fire and Probation, will focus on how they can work together to tackle these issues across Lincolnshire. A new addition to the partnership is the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire, Mr Alan Hardwick.

### **Fire and Rescue**

The changes to the Fire and Rescue service delivery model are well underway and early indications are that the expected improvements are being made. The County now has 6 fire engines crewed on a 24 hour basis by whole time fire fighters and part time fire fighters now receive an average of three hours per week training.

Following the cancellation of the Government's Regional Control Project, the Council has entered into collaboration with Norfolk, Humberside and Hertfordshire Fire Authorities to update and enhance the control room capability of all four of the fire and rescue services. The new project is funded through Government grants and, whilst still in the early stages, it is showing real promise which will deliver great benefits to the Council and the County.

## **Emergency Planning**

To coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Sea Floods, in which over 2,000 people were killed including 307 in eastern England, our Emergency Planning team hosted a 'master class' on 30 January on tackling flood risk. The event was attended by representatives from all Lincolnshire's emergency services (including the Red Cross) and coastal districts, and officers involved in evacuation planning, as well as the Environment Agency, and the Met Office.

Senior representatives from Charente Maritime (France) and the Netherlands were present and shared their experience of recent flood events in their areas. The Xynthia storm in 2010 in the La Rochelle and surrounding area bore close resemblance to Lincolnshire's experience in 1953, with holiday homes and caravans taking the main toll of the flood water with 7.5m high waves, resulting in more than 50 deaths. Colonel Erich Peuch, Chief Fire Officer of Charente Maritime, gave an account of his service's work during the emergency, which was extremely useful in highlighting the advantages afforded by modern rescue equipment and techniques – and the problems which still remain in dealing with this scale of disaster.

The challenge of managing evacuation of threatened areas was an important topic discussed, with the support of an officer from The Netherlands, where a great deal of research and practical exercise has been carried out. The central problem remains, which is, at what point can a decision be made to evacuate people when the probability of severe flooding is relatively low, whilst waiting for more certainty is likely to allow time for effective evacuation? The value of evacuation route signage and live evacuation exercises has to be weighed against its possible effect on tourism, and publicity warning of the vulnerability of caravans to high flood waves poses a similar dilemma.