

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 September 2022

Statement from: Councillor D McNally, Executive Councillor for Waste and Trading Standards

TRADING STANDARDS

In April Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards took part in Operation June, an awareness campaign developed to highlight the dangers of illicit cigarettes. Operation June marks the tenth anniversary of the death of Lincolnshire resident, June Buffham, who died in a housefire believed to have been started by an illicit cigarette that failed to extinguish. Since June's tragic accident Julie Grant, June's daughter, has campaigned tirelessly to highlight the specific dangers of smoking illicit cigarettes working with Trading Standards in Lincolnshire and beyond.

In April 2022, Lincolnshire Trading Standards and its partners took Operation June out on the road, holding public events in Boston and Lincoln. This was an opportunity to speak to members of the public directly. With the East Midlands Fire Investigation Dog Dexter on hand to draw the public in, Officers were not only able to get across the message about the dangers of illegal cigarettes, but wider fire-safety advice from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue. One You Lincolnshire were also on hand to offer advice and support to those wanting to stop smoking. The campaign roadshows also initiated widespread local media coverage, including extended segments on BBC Look North and ITV Calendar, on local BBC and commercial radio, and in numerous local newspapers across the county.

Northamptonshire Trading Standards and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue service were amongst the first authorities outside Lincolnshire to begin adopting the campaign themselves, and now use the same Operation June resources developed as part of the campaign.

Operation June was then incorporated into the National Fire Chiefs Council's [Home Fire Safety Week](#) campaign in June. This saw the campaign resources shared with and supported by fire services across the UK.

Also in April, the Trading Standards Service received notification from the Immigration Enforcement Service that they had issued a £15,000 penalty against the owner of a business found to be selling illicit tobacco products. The penalty was issued after a referral was made by the Trading Standards Service who had collated evidence of the business employing a person without the right to work while investigating offences arising from a seizure of illicit tobacco from the business premises.

The Trading Standards Service has also secured convictions in respect of two investigations relating to fraudulent trading. In the first case the Defendant was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years for offences of fraud and theft. He has taken payments for memorial headstones that he failed to supply and removed a memorial from a grave to repair that he failed to return. In the second case the Defendant was trading as a builder who took deposits for work that he then failed to complete. He was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years having pleaded guilty to 12 offences of fraud. He was

also ordered to pay compensation of £9410 to the victims and £2500 to the prosecution in respect of costs.

WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

There has been some real positive news to report from Waste Services. The new Household Waste Recycling Centre at Tattershall opened in July 2022 and replaces an older privately owned site at Kirkby on Bain. The new facility is larger and enables more space for residents to dispose of their waste. The site includes four compacting machines which enables material to be compacted on site to create environmental and financial savings through reduced haulage.

Another success is the continued roll out of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) project for the separate collection and disposal of paper and card. The project is complete in Boston, North Kesteven and West Lindsey and is now continuing in East Lindsey. There are some real improvements in the material quality which we are collecting, and this will help to improve our recycling rates and thus benefit the environment. The project will also provide financial savings for the authority. Once East Lindsey is complete, plans will be made for the roll out in the remaining districts of South Kesteven, South Holland and the City of Lincoln.

We are still waiting to see the details of the new Environment Act, but all indications are that we will be required to enable the separate collection and disposal of food waste from all municipal properties. We will have to develop our waste infrastructure to deal with food waste but there is potential to create long term financial savings if we work closely with the private sector. There will be significant impacts on both LCC and the district councils but if we continue to work together with the district councils we are confident that we will continue to provide an efficient and effective waste service for the benefit of Lincolnshire's residents.