

Environmental Health and Trading Standards – Impact of COVID-19 noted.

2 There was submitted a report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability regarding the enforcement and supporting role provided by Environmental Health and Trading Standards during the COVID-19 pandemic, advising

- (1) that the Environmental Health function was charged with responsibilities under the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008, which renders the Council liable to act in circumstances where public health was endangered, particularly in relation to the control of infectious disease and in May 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities issued a joint statement that gave Environmental Health and Trading Standards staff additional powers under COVID Regulations;
- (2) of the key challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (3) of the COVID Enforcement Strategy, which established the overarching approach to enforcement of COVID related regulations and guidance;
- (4) of the Incident Management Team (IMT) process, with Environmental Health in Glasgow being expected to be involved in around 4 to 8 IMTs in any given year however, since the ease of lockdown restrictions the demand for Environmental Health participation in IMTs had increased to 2 or 3 per week and sometimes more than 1 per day, particularly since the return of children to school in August and the return of colleges and universities in September;
- (5) of the involvement of Environmental Health officers in the Test and Protect system;
- (6) of the role of Environmental Health officers within the hospitality sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in 919 visits to hospitality businesses and only 2 businesses being served a Prohibition Notice under the COVID-19 Regulations;
- (7) that the gym and leisure sector had been identified as representing the highest risk of the transmission of COVID-19, resulting in Environmental Health embarking on a project to engage with the operators of gyms within the city, as detailed in the report;
- (8) of the role of Environmental Health in relation to schools and student accommodation, as detailed in the report;
- (9) of the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment to meet the demand across the Council and guidance on handling COVID-19 cases within the Council workplace; and
- (10) that while a large proportion of Environmental Health and Trading Standards resources were devoted to proactive and reactive COVID-19 related work, the

service was still engaged in handling service requests from the public and Elected Members particularly in relation to pest control and food safety.

After consideration, the committee noted the report and that resources were being reviewed and strengthened as part of the ongoing COVID response, which included the requirement for business as usual to commence in full in the future and in accordance with national guidance and this would be carried out in conjunction with the Council family review and as part of service recovery planning.