

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

## COVID 19 AND THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION SAFEGUARDING SCHEME (FESS)

### Purpose:

To raise awareness and inform the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee of the proactive work undertaken by the Trading Standards team on financial exploitation and protecting those vulnerable to exploitation during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

As detailed in the report attached.

### Reasons:

1. During the Covid -19 pandemic, the Trading Standards team were mindful of the need to adopt a strategy and prepare to address financial exploitation issues that might arise as a result of the pandemic. We also wanted to react to enquiries and concerns raised by vulnerable citizens or their advocates. As a result, various initiatives were employed to achieve these aims.
2. The Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, which is conducting a review of the wider interventions the team operate under the Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme, proposed that fellow members of the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee are made aware of the attached report and the initiatives outlined. As a result, the attached report is being made available to members of the Committee.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr. Phillip Hughes (Executive Board Member for Public Protection)

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021**

**COVID 19 AND**  
**THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION SAFEGUARDING SCHEME (FESS)**

**PURPOSE:**

To raise awareness and inform the Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee of the proactive work undertaken by the Trading Standards team on financial exploitation and protecting those vulnerable to exploitation during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

During a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the Task and Finish Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee members were presented with the attached report, informing them of how the Trading Standards team within Consumer and Business Affairs Section, have combated financial exploitation during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, Group Members recommended that their fellow Environment and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Members have sight of the report to raise awareness.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

