

**Tyne Port Health Authority  
Report to the Joint Board  
Date: Tuesday 6 October 2015**

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**Subject:** Association of Port Health Authorities Annual Conference 2015

**Reporting Officer:** Stephen Taggart  
Chief Port Health Officer

**Officer Contact Details:** Tel: 0191 6436654  
Email:- [stephen.taggart@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.taggart@northtyneside.gov.uk)

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**PART 1**

**1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Board of officer feedback from the Association of Port Health Authorities (APHA) Annual Conference 2015 recently held at the Marriott Hotel, Liverpool.

The report outlines details of a number of the presentations relevant to the work of the Tyne Port Health Authority.

**1.2 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Joint Board note the report.

**2.0 Information**

2.1 APHA represents the interests of port health authorities nationally and the APHA Conference is one of the few opportunities officers have to meet and learn from representatives of other port health authorities and experts in the field of port health.

This year's annual conference was held at the Marriott Hotel, Liverpool over three days commencing 08 September 2015, and was attended by Cllr Ged Bell and the Chief Port Health Officer. Over 70 delegates attended on each of the three days and the theme of this year's conference was 'Evolution – Adapting to Change'.

2.2 Highlights of the conference included a number of presentations on global disease. An Ebola update explained the difficulties in controlling the disease in West Africa because of local customs and remote communities. A presentation on Avian influenza described the particular challenges presented by a virus that can quickly mutate. There is a constant threat of a future mutation that would allow easy person to person transmission and consequent risk of pandemic. Limiting the spread is heavily reliant on effective border controls.

Day 2 of conference focussed on food fraud and a representative from the newly established Food Crime Unit explained the role of the unit. The Food Crime Unit was set up to assist enforcement agencies involved in large scale food fraud investigations by acting as a single point of intelligence information. The units role is to gather evidence of food crime to hand over to regulators for appropriate action.

The Welsh Food Fraud Unit gave details of an investigation into a multi million pound food fraud involving the theft and illegal slaughter of sheep in Wales, which ended up distributed and sold in London as 'Smokies'. The investigation was complex involving new techniques to monitor mobile phone and SatNav information as well as interrogation of financial records.

Mersey Port Health talked about a recent major investigation into illegal cockle picking in the Mersey Estuary and surrounding areas. The investigation was multi agency, involving the local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Police and Port Health. The investigation resulted in a number of successful prosecutions.

The Better Regulation Delivery Office gave an update on Primary Authority and noted that no primary authority partnerships had been set up involving port health authorities. The audience largely agreed that the nature of port health work does not easily lend itself to forming primary authority partnerships although there may be limited scope for partnerships relating to food hygiene/standards.

A representative of Liverpool Cruise Terminal talked about recent and future developments at the terminal. He reported on growing numbers of cruise traffic with over 60 cruise vessels scheduled for 2016 and figures projected to exceed 100 by 2020. The terminal operates out of a temporary building and work was due to shortly commence on a permanent cruise terminal building. The terminal is owned and operated by Liverpool City Council.

2.3 It was announced at the end of conference that next years conference would be held in Southampton.

### **3.0 Decision Options**

The Joint Board is recommended to note the information.

### **4.0 Appendices:**

None

**5.0 Contact Officers:**

Stephen Taggart, Chief Port Health Officer – Tel 0191 643 6654

**6.0 Background Information:**

There are no relevant background papers.

**PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

**1.0 Finance and Other Resources:**

There are no financial and resource implications arising from this report.

**2.0 Legal:**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.