

Part of the discussions at Council regarding the new framework was what subjects should be included within the Trading Standards Practitioner Diploma (TSPD). There was a lengthy debate on what subjects should be included within the framework.

Part of this debate was the work looking at what a trading standards officer will be now and in the future. It was important that after making the decision that a new framework was needed, and that it fit the needs of the profession now as well as in the future.

The focus of trading standards has shifted and the qualification needed to align with the changes. At the time of its conception, the TSQF met the needs of the profession however, with recent changes in the landscape the need for a more streamlined framework with the emphasis on specific areas was felt to be the way forward.

Council were keen that the modular approach was removed to ensure that candidates on completion of the new qualification would have a more standardised knowledge base.

The focus of the areas within the TSPD would allow for the core areas that all officers need to demonstrate ensuring a strong knowledge and skill base for officers to build on after completion of the qualification.

CTSI Council has put the emphasis on specific subjects that support with aiding businesses which include investigative elements and market surveillance.

However, it is acknowledged that there are areas that are not included within the framework. The CTSI Professional Competency Framework (CPCF) is being set up to ensure that subject areas not