

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION, PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE)

**RE-PROCUREMENT OF PEST CONTROL CONTRACT**

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Council provides a subsidised contracted pest control service that is available to all householders, regardless of tenure, throughout the Borough. The current contract with SDK is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
- 1.2 This report recommends the re-procurement of a pest control contract and the establishment of a Member Procurement Board to oversee the project.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet consider whether it is appropriate to establish a Member Procurement Board to oversee the contract re-procurement project in view of the nature of this service.
- 2.2 If required the terms of reference for the board would be as attached at Appendix A.

**3.0 Background**

- 3.1 A Procurement Board was set up in 2014 to oversee the procurement of the existing contractor to provide pest control services and a four year contract to SDK Environmental Ltd commenced on 1 April 2015.
- 3.2 The current contract enabled the charges for pest control services to all residents of the Borough to remain the same since 2014 and this was one of the key objectives of the last contract procurement process in 2014.
- 3.3 The pest control service runs independently from the Council with customers needing to contact the contractor's call centre directly to arrange and pay for treatment. However householders within the district are not obliged to use this service provider and can select any pest control service they desire.
- 3.4 The current contract requires the contractor to carry out treatments for the Council's property and land portfolio to assist in the Council fulfilling its statutory functions under the Prevention of Damage of Pests Act 1949 (PDPA).
- 3.5 As part of the contract, SDK carry out routine monthly baiting of both Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City town centres.
- 3.6 There is a national rise in the levels of rodent populations as noted by the British Pest Control Association. This is due to a number of factors including: warmer winters; readily available sources of natural and manufactured food; increase in

feeding garden birds; resistance to bait and lack of sewerage baiting. Poor housekeeping both commercially and domestic has an effect on rodent attraction as well.

- 3.7 Without effective pest management, pest infestations will increase and will result in increasing incidents of pest borne disease, damage to buildings and risk to food businesses.
- 3.8 Pest control remains an important public service to residents of the Borough and is of particular relevance to the most disadvantaged. The service is also important to meet future challenges brought about by climate change and by increased movement of goods, animals and people. In providing this affordable service the council will continue to play a key role in protecting public health.

### **Implications**

#### **4.0 Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1 The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the European Procurement Directives.
- 4.2 The council is not obliged to provide a pest control service, but is under a legal duty to keep its own land free from rats and mice and to enforce the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 throughout the borough.
- 4.3 There is also more specific legislation relating to use of pesticides which needs to be complied with, for example the Control of Pesticides Regulations

#### **5.0 Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 The contract is financed from an existing budget but additional growth may be required depending on the level of service required in the new contract and the tenders returned. The current contract costs £28,000 per annum

#### **6.0 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 The risks to public health from certain pests are well understood and documented and the council pest control contract can assist with reducing such risks.
- 6.2 The council is at risk of legal challenge if it fails to meet its legal duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 in keeping its own land free of rats and mice.
- 6.3 Whilst the Council does not need to have a pest control contract in place, failure to have such a contract will result in resource implications for various teams across the Council. Teams may need to source and procure services from other providers as well as carrying out extra visits to properties and potentially result in the service of more enforcement notices, which once again has an additional resource implication.

#### **7.0 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 7.1 Certain pesticide products in the wrong hands could be used for inappropriate purposes, employing the services of a competent contractor reduces this risk.

**8.0 Procurement Implication(s)**

8.1 The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the European Procurement Directives

**9.0 Climate Change Implication(s)**

9.1 As the climate changes it is likely that the range of pests we will see in the UK may change. This may have longer term implications for the scope of the contract and the services which are provided.

**10.0 Link to Corporate Priorities**

10.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority of Our Community, Our Environment and Our Economy

**11.0 Equality and Diversity**

11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out if there is a change to the services provided as part of the pest control contract.

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