

Committee: Community & Housing

Agenda Item

Date: 18 June 2009

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Title: REVIEW OF PEST CONTROL SERVICE

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Item for decision

Summary

- 1 One of the priorities identified in the Environmental Health 2009/10 Divisional Plan is a review of the pest control service. A Member Reference Group will need to be appointed and terms of reference agreed.

Recommendations

- 2 a) That the Committee agree to establish a time limited Reference Group to undertake the review of Pest Control by October 2009.
b) That the Committee nominate 5 Members to participate in the task group.

This group will be advised and guided by the following professionals

- Head of Environmental Health
- Principal Environmental Health Officer
- Pest control specialists as required.

- c) That the terms of reference included in the body of the report be agreed.

Background Papers

- 3 Environmental Health Service Plan

Impact

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Communication/Consultation	Service users and employees.
Community Safety	Pest control is a vital element to support the health and wellbeing of people in our community
Equalities	No specific equalities implications contained in this report
Finance	Review being carried out within existing budget.
Human Rights	No specific human rights issues contained

	in this report
Legal implications	Enforcement will be required where pests that are threat to human health are not controlled.
Ward-specific impacts	Pest control involves all wards
Workforce/Workplace	Review will look at options that may impact on workforce.

Situation

- 5 The last review of this service was carried out in 2004/5 as part of a wider review of Environmental Health. Officers feel that it is timely to carry out a new review and this is a key priority in this year's Environmental Health Services Divisional Plan.
- 6 The Council has 2 pest control posts delivering a range of pest control services to deal with wasp nests, rats, mice, bedbugs, ants, fleas and flies on request.
- 7 The service is highly regarded by its customers and is instrumental in managing down the numbers of pests that are harmful to human health particularly rats.
- 8 There are other factors that will need to be taken into account, when looking ahead as to how to we deliver this service in the future, for example quality, cost effectiveness and partnership working.
- 9 The outcome of the review would be reported back to Community and Housing Committee.
- 10 The following terms of reference are suggested:

To carry out a review of the Pest Control service to:

- Benchmark and understand the service currently delivered and its costs and charges
- Evaluate its role in addressing the health of our community
- Explore the options for providing this service in the future in a different way.
- Make suitable recommendations to committee that are cost effective and affordable
- Ensure adequate resources are available to deliver effective outcomes

Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the review does not evaluate cost and health benefits holistically	2 (clear understanding of why a council has an interest in dealing with pests detrimental to human health)	3 (increase in costs and pests in our community uncontrolled)	Ensure the review is robust and understood.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.