

**PAPER NO. 6**

**REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 23 JANUARY 2012**

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**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012  
**Subject:** *Pest control and dog warden contract*  
**Report of:** *Elaine Bird – Community Protection Manager*  
**Portfolio Holder:** Colin Golding  
**Status:** Decision

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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise members of the outcome of the recent pest control and dog warden procurement process.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 **It is recommended that following the procurement process Harborough District Council enters into a contract with Company A for the provision of a pest control, dog warden and kennelling service commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 Currently the Council has a combined pest control and day time dog warden contract with a single supplier. In addition the Council also has two further small contracts with a different supplier to provide the out of hour's stray dog service and the kennelling contract.
- 3.2 The pest control service was identified within the 2011-12 business planning process as an activity which should cease following the completion of the current contract period. However, the Council has a statutory duty to provide a service for the collection of stray dogs within its area. The existing contract was due to expire at the end of October 2011 and within it there was an option to extend for a further 2 year period however due to the combined nature of the existing pest control and dog warden contract, legal advice was provided confirming that it was not possible to extend the existing contract for the dog warden service.
- 3.3 There are recognised benefits for the Council in providing a pest control service in that where a service is not provided there can be an increase in the number of "DIY" solutions carried out by individuals. Such treatments are generally ineffective and could result in local public health problems and infestations. The can also lead to an increase in the amount of uncontrolled

poison in the environment. Providing a service reduces this risk and also enables Environmental Health Officers to identify at an early stage, potential areas within the district which may require additional intervention/investigation before the infestation becomes too problematic. With regards to the dog warden service it was felt that combining all of the existing contracts relating to dog control would provide greater flexibility and enhanced service if it was provide by a single supplier.

- 3.4 Consequently at the Executive meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 it was agreed to extend the existing pest control and dog warden contract to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, in order to allow sufficient time to undertake a procurement process to provide a comprehensive dog warden service and to introduce a charging structure for pest control treatments to the public, offering the service sourced from a single supplier.
- 3.5 The procurement process has now been completed and tender submissions were evaluated based upon 40% quality of the service provide and 60% on the cost of the pricing schedule submitted by the contractors. Based on this assessment Contractor A received the highest score.
- 3.6 The contract will run for a period of two years with an option to extend for a further two years with the agreement of all parties.

#### 4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 The pest control service provides treatment to those members of the public in need of assistance. To maintain this non statutory service it was necessary to introduce a charging structure for all pest control treatments. However the contractors were invited to submit a pricing structure which would provide concessionary rates to assist residents on pre-specified income related benefits.
- 4.2 Combining all of the dog warden services, including the kennelling provision into one contract will provide a more streamlined service to the public as they will only have to deal with one contractor or one location to collect their dog.

#### 5 Key Facts

- 5.1 Whilst there is no legal requirement to provide a pest control service, there are statutory duties on the Council under various legislation to control pest infestations and to control public health pests. Consequently providing a pest control service enables the public to access this service with confidence in the service they will receive, and it may reduce the risk of the Council having to take enforcement action and carry out works in default. There are also certain areas within the Council's geographic area where there are known problems of rodent activity and regular baiting of these areas is undertaken by the Council to control the rodents and to reduce the reputation risk to the Council.

- 5.2 In addition to the main pest control and dog warden contract, the Council also has two small contracts covering the provision of the out of hour's dog warden service and the stray kennels, both of which expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.
- 5.3 In view of the above members agreed to undertake a procurement process to introduce a charging structure for pest control treatments to residents and to provide a single supplier for all of the dog warden services.
- 5.4 Five expressions of interest were obtained following the advertisement and were sent tender documents inviting them to submit a tender response. Final tender submissions were received from two contractors.
- 5.5 The contractors each provided a pricing structure for the cost of pest control treatments to the public. The Council currently charges for some pest control treatments and an assessment of the existing pricing structure compared to the prices submitted by the contractors can be found in Table 1. attached (Exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972)
- 5.6 To give members an indication of the demand for this service Table 2 gives details of the requests for services over the past five years.

Table 2

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Rats</b>	461	762	466	514	447	530
<b>Mice</b>	169	203	119	107	111	142
<b>Wasps</b>	401	551	320	559	706	507
<b>Fleas</b>	42	25	21	32	23	28
<b>Others</b>	15	11	5	11	6	10
<b>Total</b>	1088	1552	931	1223	1293	1217

It is anticipated that the introduction of charges for all of these treatments will reduce the demand on the service. Within table 2 the figures for "Other" are made up of treatments for bedbugs and cockroaches.

- 5.7 The current contract allows for a problematic area of the bank of the River Welland in Market Harborough to be treated and kept free of rat activity and it would be beneficial to maintain an element of baiting to control rodent activity in this high profile area and the tender included a price to continue this service. The existing bait stations have all been insitu for several years and if the service it to continue they need to be replaced. The continuation of this service is included in the total tender submission price.
- 5.8 Based on the assessment process described in para 3.5, the following scores were determined

<b>Company</b>	<b>Allocated Points</b>	<b>Total tender</b>
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		<b>submission price</b>
<b>Contractor A</b>	91.1	£27,550.00
<b>Contractor B</b>	64.4	£38,352.52

**Contractor A** scored the highest overall based on the financial assessment and the quality of the service provision.

## 6 Legal Issues

- 6.1 Due regard has been paid to Health & Safety at Work, Equal Opportunities and TUPE in respect of the evaluation and assessment of the tender submissions.

## 7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 The 2011-12 budget provision for the dog warden and pest control services is £51,500.00. The tender process removed the subsidised pest control treatments to the public but retained the provision of a proactive rodent control service in known problematic areas within the district.

- 7.2 Following the procurement process the cost of delivering the dog warden and retained pest control service will be £27,550.00 resulting in a saving of £23,950.00 on the 2011-12 budget. Budget for the pest control and dog warden contract will be made available in 2012-13 should members approve the recommendation of this report.

## 8 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

- 8.1 Whilst the introduction of fees for pest control treatments may have a detrimental impact on certain groups in society this is dependent on their ability to pay for the service irrespective of whether the individual demonstrates one or more of the protective characteristics. However the maintenance of the service will ensure that all residents can access treatments and the continuation of some concessionary rates may have a positive impact on vulnerable residents in the district.

- 8.2 An initial equality impact assessment was carried out at the early stages of the procurement process and this can be found in appendix A

## 9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 The continuation of a pest control service is likely to reduce the amount of enforcement action required under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and the Public Health Act 1936.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None

## 11. Carbon Management Implications

11.1 None

12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 The tender process was undertaken in line with advice from Legal Services and the Welland Procurement Unit which will reduce the risk of any challenge following the awarding of the new contract to the successful contractor.

13 Consultation

13.1 The Portfolio Holder has been involved with the discussions associated with the procurement process.

14 Options Considered

14.1 The following options have been considered as a result of the assessment of the tenders submitted.

- Consider the pricing structure which provides the lowest cost of treatments to the public
- Consider the pricing structure which provides the lowest cost of the overall service provision to the Council.

15 Background Papers

15.1 Reports to the Executive on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

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**Previous report(s):** *Reports to the Executive on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.*

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: N**

**Ward Members Notified: N**

**Appendices:** *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfdata.doc)).*

**A. Initial Equality Impact Assessment**

**B.**