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**PEST CONTROL SERVICE**

Committee: Policy & Resources Committee

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Author: Head of Environmental Services

[K38]

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1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To consider the recommendation made by Environment and Transport Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 regarding the re-tender of the Pest Control Contract and charges for the service.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members agree the recommendations made by Environment and Transport Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010:

2.1 To the continuation of the Pest Control Services with the Service being provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

2.2 That the Council introduce a charge for the Pest Control Service to residents on income related benefit.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 A report was taken to Environment and Transport Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January regarding the contracted Pest Control Service. This is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 It was agreed at the meeting that the recommendations shown at 2.1 and 2.2 be brought before Policy and Resources Committee.

3.3 It is suggested that a minimal charge of £20 for residents on income related benefit be introduced. At present the service is provided free of charge to those on income related benefit and a charge of £60 is made to all other residents. Last year the service incurred an overspend of £4800 against the original budget. With the introduction of this charge along with an increased charge from £60 to £70 for all other residents the Council will be able to continue to provide the pest control service within the budget set for 2010/11. This provides a competitively priced service and compares favourably with neighbouring authorities.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Council have provided an effective and well-used pest control service for many years. This is at a time when other councils are withdrawing the service. As a result of the continued provision of the service there has been little need for the Council to enforce under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act 1949 due to easy access and affordability of the service.
- 4.2 The introduction of charges for those on income related benefit would enable the Council to continue to provide a cost efficient service, at the same time as continuing to provide a competitively priced service for residents.
- 4.3 The service provided by South Cambridgeshire has been excellent and even though only working on 2 days a week has been sufficient to meet demand.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The introduction of a charge will allow the Council to continue to provide a pest control service within the budget set for 2010/11.

#### 6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 (270110 – Pest Control Service) Environment and Transport Committee report.

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#### **Background Documents**

#### **Location**

#### **Contact Officer**

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**TITLE:        PEST CONTROL SERVICE**

Committee: Environment and Transport Committee

Date:           27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Author:         Head of Environmental Services

[J311]

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1.0    ISSUE

1.1    To consider the re-tender of the Pest Control Contract and associated cost of service provision.

2.0    RECOMMENDATIONS

Members agree to RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

2.1    To the continuation of the pest control service, with the service being provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

2.2    That the Council introduce a charge for the pest control service to residents on income related benefit.

3.0    BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1    The Council have provided a contracted pest control service for many years. In 2002 the Council introduced charges for all pest control treatments but continued to provide a free service for those residents in receipt of income related benefits.

3.2    The cost of providing the free service to residents in receipt of income related benefit is £2340 per annum. There is no statutory responsibility to provide a pest control service, however if the service were disbanded enforcement issues could arise where residents failed to take appropriate action to deal with infestations. Many authorities that charge for pest control services, provide services at a reduced cost rather than free to residents in receipt of income related benefits.

3.3    At present pest control charges are £60 for any treatment. To enable this valued service to continue the Council could consider introducing a reduced rate for those residents in receipt of income related benefit, this would then reduce the cost of service provision to the Council.

3.4    Ecolab provided the Pest Control Service for the Council since the introduction of the charges in 2002. In November 2008 Ecolab gave the

Council notice of their intention to withdraw the service. To ensure that the pest control service continued without too much of a hiatus, South Cambridgeshire District Council offered to provide the Council with pest control service on Tuesday and Thursday from their in house team. This agreement commenced in May 2009.

- 3.5 Due to the fact that the Council need to review the provision of Pest Control Services and no tendering process took place when South Cambridgeshire District Council helped the Council out, it provides the Council with the opportunity to consider whether at this point we continue with the service from South Cambridgeshire District Council or we invite other companies to tender to provide the service.
- 3.6 If the Council continue to provide the service through South Cambridgeshire the charges for the service would be set to ensure that the cost of service provision would be covered. Systems are already in place and the level and quality of service provision has been excellent. If Members were minded to continue with the present arrangements the recommendation would have to go to before Policy and Resources Committee to be agreed.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Council have provided an effective and well-used pest control service for many years. There has been little need for the Council to enforce under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act 1949 due to the availability of the service.
- 4.2 The introduction of charges for those on income related benefit would enable the Council to provide a more cost efficient service, at the same time as continuing to provide a competitively priced service for residents.
- 4.3 The service provided by South Cambridgeshire has been excellent and even though only working on 2 days a week has been sufficient to meet demand.

#### 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council are charged by South Cambridgeshire for treatments undertaken therefore, the provision of the service if charged at the right rates will be cost neutral to the Council.

#### 6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Service Use 2008/09
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – Cost of Service/Income

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
None.	Room SF 201	Liz Knox Head of Environmental Services (01353) 616313 E-mail: Liz.Knox@ <a href="mailto:Liz.Knox@eastcambs.gov.uk">eastcambs.gov.uk</a>

APPENDIX 1

<u>2005/06 (treatment visits)</u>		<u>general enquiries to the Dept - (not necessarily resulting in a treatment)</u>	
Rats	179		159
Mice	99		73
Fleas	15		1
Bed Bugs	9		0
Wasps	203		0
Others	22		10

<u>2006/07 (treatment visits)</u>		<u>general enquiries to the Dept - (not necessarily resulting in a treatment)</u>	
Rats	136		146
Mice	73		45
Fleas	36		1
Bed bugs	10		1
Wasps	172		1
Others	10		8

<u>2007/08 (treatment visits)</u>		<u>general enquiries to the Dept - (not necessarily resulting in a treatment)</u>	
Rats	196		54
Mice	80		0
Fleas	17		0
Bed bugs	4		2
Wasps	339		4
Others	16		21

2008/09 (treatment visits)

general enquiries to the Dept - (not necessarily resulting in a treatment)

Rats	186	74
Mice	51	4
Fleas	20	8
Bed bugs	11	0
Wasps	169	6
Others	0	17

## APPENDIX 2

### PE001 Pest Control

Account	Account Description	Full year budget	Profiled Budget		Actual Ytd	Variance	Commitments
			Ytd				
1010	Basic Salary	7,572	5,679		5,500	179	0.00
3511	Leased Cars	77	58		58	0	0.00
4520	Telephone	424	318		44	274	0.00
5010	Contracted Services	9,248	6,936		245	6,691	0.00
7010	Finance	1,205	904		904	0	0.00
7011	Personnel	342	257		257	0	0.00
7012	Payroll	87	65		65	0	0.00
7013	Legal	287	215		215	0	0.00
7014	Computer	1,227	920		920	0	0.00
7015	Customer Services	417	313		313	0	0.00
7016	Reprographics	281	211		211	0	0.00
7017	Typing	0	0		0	0	0.00
7018	Audit	99	74		74	0	0.00
7020	Office Accommodation	923	692		692	0	0.00
7024	DMS	284	213		213	0	0.00
9301	Recovery From Debtors	-5,860	-5,145		-6,626	1,481	0.00
9381	Licence-Other	0	0		0	0	0.00
9503	Telephone Calls	0	0		-40	40	0.00
<b>Total PE001 Pest Control</b>		<b>16,613</b>	<b>11,710</b>		<b>3,046</b>	<b>8,664</b>	<b>0</b>