

Agenda Item

Executive Board

15 March 2006

SS/MH



Dog Warden and Pest Control Contracts

Summary

The Dog Warden and Pest Control contracts are due for renewal on 31 October 2006. Major changes in the Council's responsibilities to deal with dogs and with anti social behaviour are due to come in over the next 12 months. These will impact on the tender specification. An extension to the existing contracts is requested to enable the Council to formulate a policy to deal with these issues and for this to be taken into account in the specification.

Recommendation

That the Dog Warden and Pest Control contracts be extended for 12 months from 31 October 2006 to 31 October 2007, and that an exemption be made to the Council's Standing Orders accordingly

a) Reasons for Recommendation

There are changes in dog control and anti social behaviour legislation which are due to come into force over the next 12 months. An extension to the existing contract will allow a specification to be prepared which reflects anticipated government guidance and the outcome of review and policy formulation which the Council is currently undertaking

b) Alternative Options

To start the tender process immediately with a view to letting a new contract in October 2006. The risk with doing this is that the specification will not reflect changes in legislation and policies to be adopted by the Council and consequently the range of potential contractors may be affected.

c) Risk Considerations

No risk over and above those already identified for the running of the contract.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

The recommendation complies with current policies and there are no budgetary implications.

e) Date for Review of Decision

1 Main Body of the Report

1. Background

1.1 The Dog Warden and Pest Control services are both let on contract to SDK (Kilsyth) Ltd. The contracts are both due to expire on 31 October 2006. The Dog Warden contract was originally let for 3 years and has a current value of £123,500. The specification covers a

wide range of duties including enforcement of dog control legislation, community enforcement and general support to the work of the Environmental Health service. The Pest Control contract has a value of £8,500 .The use of a single contractor for both services has proved advantageous in providing a greater presence in the district and in flexible working practices.

- 1.2 There are major changes in legislation relating to dog controls and general anti social behaviour which will fall to local authorities to enforce and potentially will impact heavily on the type and volume of work carried out by the Dog Warden Service. It is not clear, at this stage, what exactly these responsibilities will entail and how the Council will apply them. Long awaited government guidance is due over the coming months and the Council is about to set up a Task and Finish Forum to review its approach to anti social behaviour.
 - 1.3 The contracting process takes 6-9 months and it would be difficult to prepare a contract specification now which predicts and incorporates these changes and which provides a service which meets the needs of the Council in the longer term. It is therefore proposed that the contract be extended for a further 12 months to allow an accurate specification to be prepared.
 - 1.4 The current Dog Warden contract provides a fairly wide specification which will give sufficient flexibility to meet the Council's short term needs and SDK (Kilsyth) Ltd have, to date, delivered an efficient and reliable service.
 - 1.5 It is advantageous to the Council to have both the Dog Wardens and Pest Control contracts running concurrently so they can be put out to tender at the same time.
 - 1.6 Internal Audit have been consulted on the proposal and have raised no objections.
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Legal Implications

The legal implications have been discussed and this extension can be permitted for one more year but no further.

Financial Implications

There is budgetary provision included for this contract in 2006/07.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

Background Papers

- Dog Warden contract.
 - Pest Control contract.
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