

**AGENDA**  
**SCRUTINY BOARD**

**Date:** Friday, 28 July 2017

**Time:** 2.30 pm

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**Members:**

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford (Chairman)

Councillor S D Martin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors F Birkett  
Mrs P M Bryant  
S Cunningham  
M J Ford, JP  
Mrs C L A Hockley  
Ms S Pankhurst  
C J Wood

**Deputies:** B Bayford  
Mrs M Brady  
Mrs L E Clubley  
Mrs T L Ellis  
L Keeble  
N J Walker



**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 29 July 2017.

**3. Chairman's Announcements**

**4. Declarations of Interest and Disclosures of Advice or Directions**

To receive any declarations of interest from members in accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct and disclosures of advice or directions received from Group Leaders or Political Groups, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

**5. Deputations**

To receive any deputations of which notice has been lodged.

**6. Call-In of Executive Decision No. 1926 Pest Control Services** (Pages 7 - 24)

A report by the Head of Democratic Services.



P GRIMWOOD  
Chief Executive Officer  
Civic Offices  
[www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)  
20 July 2017

**For further information please contact:  
Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Fareham, PO16 7AZ  
Tel:01329 236100  
[democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@fareham.gov.uk)**

# FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Scrutiny Board

**(to be confirmed at the next meeting)**

**Date:** Thursday, 29 June 2017

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs S M Bayford (Chairman)

(Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:** F Birkett, S Cunningham, Mrs C L A Hockley, Ms S Pankhurst, C J Wood, Mrs T L Ellis (deputising for M J Ford, JP), L Keeble (deputising for S D Martin) and N J Walker (deputising for Mrs P M Bryant)

**Also  
Present:**



**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Mrs P M Bryant, M J Ford, JP and S D Martin.

**2. MINUTES**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18 May 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**5. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

**6. PRESENTATION BY, AND QUESTIONING OF TWO SAINTS**

The Board received a verbal presentation from, and asked questions of; James McDermott, Regional Director, and Georgina Shane, Contract and Performance Manager, from Two Saints.

Members were given a background information pack on the provision and support for people sleeping rough in Fareham.

The Verbal presentation given to the Board included:

- An update of services in Fareham and Gosport
- A summary of the role of Two Saints and its contractual arrangements
- Joint working with other agencies to tackle rough sleeping
- Outlined accommodation at 101 Gosport Road, Acton Lodge, outreach and community support
- Support programmes, expectations on service users and how success is measured
- Drugs and alcohol policy
- An overview of the homelessness situation in Fareham
- Challenges experienced
- Additional services that could be offered if additional funding were available
- Two Saints and Fareham Borough Council's existing close working relationship and how this could be improved to deliver better services for the homeless.

It was AGREED that James McDermott and Georgina Shane were thanked for their informative presentation.

## **7. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The Board considered a report by the Director of Finance and Resources which reviewed the Board's work programme for 2017/18.

Members were asked to note the renaming of the presentation scheduled for the 23 November 2017 meeting, which reflects the new Executive portfolio title.

Members were also asked to note that the previously unallocated item titled 'Review of the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Priorities' has been allocated to the November 2017 meeting.

In regards the unallocated item titled 'Vanguard Update', members agreed that this would be allocated to either the January 2018 or March 2018 meeting.

The Board AGREED that:

- (a) the presentation scheduled for the 23 November 2017 meeting which has been renamed to reflect the new Executive Portfolio tile, be noted;
- (b) the previously unallocated item titled 'Review of the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Priorities' be assigned to the 23 November 2017 meeting; and
- (c) the unallocated item titled 'Vanguard Update', will be assigned to either the January 2018 or March 2018 meeting.

## **8. RECEIVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANELS**

The Board was asked to receive the minutes of the Policy Development and Review Panels held since 1 May 2017.

### **(1) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 16 May 2017 of Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel**

The Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel, Councillor N J Walker, was invited to present the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2017.

It was AGREED the minutes be received.

### **(2) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 25 May 2017 of Housing Policy Development and Review Panel**

The Chairman of the Housing Policy Development and Review Panel, Councillor F Birkett, was invited to present the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2017.

It was AGREED the minutes be received.

**(3) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 30 May 2017 of Health and Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel**

The Vice-Chairman of the Health and Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel, Councillor Mrs T Ellis, was invited to present the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2017.

It was AGREED that the minutes be received.

**(4) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 14 June 2017 of Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel**

The Vice-Chairman of the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel, Councillor L Keeble, was invited to present the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017.

It was AGREED the minutes be received.

**9. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

The Chairman invited members to indicate if they wished to consider any other item of business dealt with by the Executive since the last meeting of the Board.

There were no other items of Executive Business considered.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm  
and ended at 6.59 pm).

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to Scrutiny Board

**Date**                    **28 July 2017**

**Report of:**            **Head of Democratic Services**

**Subject:**              **CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION No. 1926: PEST CONTROL SERVICES**

#### SUMMARY

Call-in can be triggered by three non-Executive members giving due notice to the Chief Executive Officer before the end of the call-in period. A call-in was received on Thursday 13 July 2017 relating to the decision made at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 10 July 2017. The call-in relates to the decision of the Executive regarding the Pest Control Service.

This matter is now referred to the Scrutiny Board to determine. The options open to the Scrutiny Board are:-

- (a) to accept the decision made by the Executive, in which case the decision can be implemented; or
- (b) to request that the Executive reconsiders the decision, giving reasons for such a request.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. At the meeting held on Monday 10 July 2017, it was resolved that the Executive agreed:
  - (a) to introduce charging for rodent treatments but to keep it free of charge for those on the lowest incomes, as detailed in Appendix D of the report;
  - (b) to introduce a £30 fee to survey and quote for flea and bed bug treatments as a standard charge doesn't reflect the work involved for heavy infestations of these insects; and
  - (c) to give delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Health to waive any charges in appropriate cases.:
2. On Thursday 13 July 2017, the Chief Executive Officer received a valid call-in request signed by Councillors R H Price, JP, Mrs M Brady and Mrs K K Trott. The reasons for the call-in, contained within the formal notice, are about charging for rodent treatment. A copy of the call-in notice is included at Appendix A.
3. As a notice of call-in has been received, the implementation of the decision stands suspended until the matter has been reviewed by the Scrutiny Board.
4. The information contained within the call-in notification now needs to be considered by the Scrutiny Board. This has been identified as information that is within the public arena.

## **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC**

5. The reasons given within the call-in letter are as follows:-
  - i. The risk to public health;
  - ii. Residents on low income but not in receipt of Benefit will not be able to afford the treatment;
  - iii. Health risks to pets and humans by individuals self treating the problem;
  - iv. We do not have to follow what other authorities do, but do what is right for our Fareham residents, especially as we are a wealthy Borough;
  - v. Cost of services is already in the budget.
6. To assist the Scrutiny Board in its review of the decision, a copy of the report considered by the Executive in relation to this matter is included at Appendix B, together with a copy of the record of the Executive decision 2017/18 1926 at Appendix C.

## **COUNCIL'S BUDGET**

7. Within the call-in notice it has been identified that the grounds of the call-in are that the decision was contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the Council's budget with the Public Protection and Pest Control budgets being cited.



8. The specific area listed in the notice of call-in is that the:
  - v. Cost of services is already in the budget.
9. The Section 151 Officer has reviewed the decision of the Executive and can provide the following comments:
10. The Council's Financial Regulations govern the preparation, setting and management of service budgets. While budgets are set annually for the purposes of determining the annual council tax, this does not preclude decisions being taken during the course of the financial year where service plans change.
11. These decisions rest with the Executive, as the constitution provides that the Executive will:-
  - i. lead the preparation of the Council's policies and budgets
  - ii. take decisions, within any constraints imposed by the Council, on the use of resources in order to deliver budgets, policies and services decided by the full Council
  - iii. consider and make decisions on reports and recommendations from its own Executive members and Committees of the Council
  - iv. take any action (relating to any matter under a local Act other than in respect of functions reserved to the Council) subject to compliance with the Council's approved policies and budgets
12. A supplementary estimate is only required where a decision results in a temporary or permanent increase in the Council's net budget (which would require approval by the Council).
13. In light of the review of the Pest Control service, the Executive resolved to make a policy change that is expected to reduce the net cost of the service to the Council. No supplementary estimate would therefore be required.
14. The Director of Planning and Regulation has been consulted and offers the following comments:
15. Within the Pest Control service there have been issues with the recruitment and retention of Pest Control Officers for some time. The service is being supported currently by a local private contractor. The current method of delivery has resulted in an overspend in the Pest Control area as reported to the Executive on 10 July 2017. Expenditure of £63,297 was reported against a budget of £51,900 with an overspend of £11,397.
16. This situation is not sustainable and if the Council were to continue to provide the service on the current basis, it would ultimately become a growth item for the Council. It is therefore considered appropriate to review and consider changing the Service delivery model, as set out in the report to the Executive meeting of 10 July 2017, to ensure that it can be delivered at least within existing agreed budgets going forward, and potentially to also achieve some efficiency savings.

17. In summary, in the opinion of both the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer, the decision was not a departure from the approved budget.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

18. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

### **CONCLUSION**

19. On considering this matter, the Scrutiny Board will need to decide if it wishes to accept the decision made by the Executive, in which case the decision can be implemented; or request that the Executive reconsiders the decision, giving reasons for such a request.

### **Appendices:**

**A:** Call-in notice - setting out reasons for call-in

**B:** Report to Executive 10 July 2017

**C:** Decision Sheet 2017/18/ 1926

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4553)



**FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF CALL-IN**

(See notes overleaf)

To: **The Chief Executive Officer,**  
**c/o the Head of Democratic Services, Fareham Borough Council.**

We, the undersigned, require the following Decision of the Executive (or an individual member of the Executive) to be called-in for review under Part 43 (Chapter 10) of the Fareham Borough Council Constitution.

|  |   |                         |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Date of Decision:  | 10-7-17   |                         |
| Minute Number:   | 8-1   |                         |
| Decision Title and Brief Description:  | PEST CONTROL SERVICE<br>CHARGING FOR RODENT TREATMENT   |                         |
| Reasons for Call-in:   | <p>① THE RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>② RESIDENTS ON LOW INCOME BUT NOT IN RECEIPT OF BENEFIT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE TREATMENT.</p> <p>③ HEALTH RISKS TO PETS AND HUMANS BY INDIVIDUALS SELF TREATING THE PROBLEM.</p> <p>④ WE DO NOT HAVE TO FOLLOW WHAT OTHER AUTHORITIES DO, BUT DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR OUR FAREHAM RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY AS WE ARE A WEALTHY BOROUGH</p> <p>⑤ COST OF SERVICES ALREADY IN THE BUDGET.</p> |                         |
| Is the Call-in of this decision made on either of the following grounds:   |   |                         |
| (i) Contrary to the Council's Policy Framework (see over);   | (i)   | YES / <u>NO</u> / N/A * |
| (ii) Contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the Council's budget.   | (ii)  | <u>YES</u> / NO / N/A * |
| (if yes, a report will be required from the Monitoring Officer. Please therefore state the relevant plan or strategy from the policy framework or the budget concerned). | * delete as appropriate<br>PUBLIC PROTECTION<br>PEST CONTROL  |                         |
| Councillors' Names (Please Print)  | Signature   | Date                    |
| ROGER PRICE  |    | 13/7/17                 |
| MARYAM BRADY   | MB  | 13/07/17                |
| KATRINA TROTT  |   | 13/07/17                |



# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 10 July 2017

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Portfolio:</b>           | Health and Public Protection  |
| <b>Subject:</b>             | <b>Review of Pest Control Services</b>  |
| <b>Report of:</b>           | Director of Planning and Regulation   |
| <b>Strategy/Policy:</b>     | Corporate Strategy 2011-17  |
| <b>Corporate Objective:</b> | A safe and healthy place to live and work<br>Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council |

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to review the Council's Pest Control Service, to bring it in line with other Hampshire Authorities. In particular to amend the fees and charges to introduce charging for rodent treatments, but also to ensure that the service is accessible to those in the community on the lowest incomes free of charge.

#### **Executive summary:**

The Council has operated a Pest Control Service for a number of years and apart from some very minor changes the Service has remained unchanged. It is essentially a service which provides free treatments to residents for rats and mice and a chargeable service for insects, although for people on low income the insect service is also currently free of charge. This report considers the options for the service going forward. These options range from not providing a service at all, to introducing charges for rodent treatments. Over the last few years most other Authorities in Hampshire have introduced charges for rodent treatments.

#### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to introduce charging for rodent treatments but to keep it free of charge for those on the lowest incomes, as detailed in Appendix D;
- (b) to introduce a £30 fee to survey and quote for flea and bed bug treatments as a standard charge doesn't reflect the work involved for heavy infestations of these insects; and
- (c) to give delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Health to waive any charges in appropriate cases.

**Reason:**

It is necessary to amend the Pest Control Service to bring it in line with other Hampshire Authorities. In particular, to amend the fees and charges to introduce charging for rodent treatments, but also ensure that the service is accessible to those in the community on the lowest incomes. The additional income from rodent treatments will help the Council meet the difficult financial challenge it faces.

**Cost of proposals:**

The introduction of charging for rodent treatments should generate additional income. It is difficult to estimate how much, as currently the service is free. The service currently carries out around 1,000 rodent treatments each year, however there may be a fall in demand if charging is introduced. As an example, if demand fell by 20% to 800 treatments and 50% were chargeable, the additional income would be £24,000. There would be additional costs of around £5,000 attached to re-organising the service so that it wouldn't be reliant on an external contractor.

**Appendices:**

- A:** Current Pest Control Charges
- B:** Hampshire Local Authority Pest Control Services and charges
- C:** Local Pest Control Companies charges
- D:** Proposed Pest Control Charges

**Background papers:** None

**Reference papers:** None

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>        | 10 July 2017                        |
| <b>Subject:</b>     | Review of Pest Control Services     |
| <b>Briefing by:</b> | Director of Planning and Regulation |
| <b>Portfolio:</b>   | Health and Public Protection        |

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Environmental Health Partnership with Fareham has been in place now since the 4 January 2011. It was initially created following a management restructure opportunity which arose in Gosport, together with an aspiration from each Council to explore the possibility of partnership working, to deliver resilience and efficiency savings.
2. Since 2011 a series of service reviews and restructures have been undertaken to continue to deliver both resilience and efficiency savings. The Partnership currently has a vacancy on the establishment of posts and so an opportunity has arisen to review the Pest Control Service. The service is currently provided on the same basis as it was prior to the Partnership arrangement and has not been reviewed for some years.
3. Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, each Local Authority has a statutory duty to keep its own land free from rats and mice. This is the basis for the provision of a pest control service. There is no statutory duty in respect of insects. Where we treat our own land ourselves there is no additional costs incurred.
4. Traditionally the Council has offered a service to the community as generally the rodent population in the Borough is then controlled and there is less likelihood of an infestation on Council land. There is also merit in treating for rodents given their public health significance, i.e. they are a reservoir for zoonotic diseases and are also linked to asthma and allergic reactions.
5. The Pest Control Service for the Partnership (Fareham and Gosport) is provided jointly by staff who routinely work in both Boroughs. Any changes to the service provision need to take account of the joint provision although it may be possible to tailor the service for each Borough should this be required.
6. Recently whilst the Service has been reviewed, due to a vacancy that has arisen, a local pest control company has been supporting the Council's service although this is costly and not viable on a long term basis.
7. The current fees and charges are shown as Appendix A.

8. A review of advertised local authority pest control services in Hampshire has been undertaken, the results of this can be seen as Appendix B.
9. A survey of private companies' charges has also been carried out, these companies' charges for rodent treatments range from £120 - £402 per treatment. The results of this can be seen as Appendix C.
10. In terms of the numbers of treatments carried out in Fareham by the Council, these are shown in the table below:-

| <b>Pest Control treatments - FBC</b> |                |                |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Pest Type</b>                     | <b>2014/15</b> | <b>2015/16</b> | <b>2016/17</b> |
| Rats                                 | 803            | 770            | 843            |
| Mice                                 | 197            | 199            | 129            |
| Wasps                                | 126            | 134            | 106            |
| Fleas                                | 61             | 61             | 31             |
| Bed Bugs                             | 18             | 26             | 20             |
| Other                                | 54             | 37             | 210            |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>1259</b>    | <b>1227</b>    | <b>1339</b>    |

11. Colleagues around Hampshire have indicated that charging for rodent treatments has not seen a significant fall in demand.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

12. Going forward there are a range of potential options for the service.

Option 1 – Provide no service.

13. There is no statutory duty to provide a pest control service. However as stated earlier, there is a duty for the Council to keep its own land free from rodents and in keeping the general rodent population down by providing a wider service assists with this. There are public health issues associated with rodents and the public expectation would be that the Council offer a Pest Control Service. If there were no service at all it is likely that lower income households would suffer the most, as private treatments are likely to not be an option for these households.

Option 2 – Continue the service as it is currently.

14. This is an option, however looking at the other Hampshire authorities, most are charging now and Fareham would be out of step with them and it does not follow the service user pays principle. The potential lost income opportunity is difficult to ignore given the current financial challenges that face the Council.

Option 3 – Introduce charges to all treatments with no reductions for those on low incomes.



15. This option would affect those on lowest incomes who would not be able to afford treatments and could potentially have a detrimental effect on health and wellbeing. In addition, if infestations went untreated, this could affect neighbouring properties.

## **PROPOSAL**

Option 4 - Introduce charging for rodent treatments subject to exemptions and amend some of the other charges.

16. Considering the above information, it would now seem appropriate to introduce a charge for rodent treatments. Given that the range of charges amongst the Hampshire Authorities is between £38 and £105, it is recommended that Fareham set a charge at the lower end at £60 a treatment.
17. In order to protect the least able to afford a rodent treatment it is further recommended that rodent treatments (and insect treatments) are offered free of charge. To determine who is entitled to free of charge treatments the customer would need to be in receipt of any of the specific benefits as follows:-
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Income Support
  - Pension Credit (Guarantee)
  - Universal Credit (maximum award)
18. Also proposed is to introduce a fee of £30 to survey and quote or if possible treat for bed bugs and fleas. The charging regime would then better reflect the work involved with heavy infestations.
19. The effect of these changes to fees and charges can be seen as Appendix D.
20. Allow the Head of Environmental Health to waive any charges in appropriate cases.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

21. The introduction of charging for rodent treatments should generate additional income. It is difficult to estimate how much, as currently the service is free. The service currently carries out around 1000 rodent treatments each year. There may be a fall in demand if charging is introduced. As an example, if demand fell by 20% to 800 treatments and 50% were chargeable, the additional income would be £24,000. There would be an additional cost of around £5,000 attached to re-organising the service, so that it wouldn't be reliant on an external contractor.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

22. To introduce the changes to the service detailed at option 4.

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman, Head of Environmental Health. (Ext 4773)

## Appendix A - Current Pest Control Charges

| <b>Pest Control</b>                            |                      |        |   |
|--|----------------------|--------|---|
| Domestic Premises charges are inclusive of VAT |                      |        |   |
| Persons in receipt of certain benefits - Free  |                      |        | £ |
| Fleas, Carpet Beetles and Carpet Moths         |                      |        |   |
| 1, 2 or 3-bedroomed property                   |                      | 70.00  |   |
| 4-bedroomed property                           |                      | 76.00  |   |
| 5-bedroomed property                           |                      | 88.00  |   |
| over 5 bedrooms                                | Quotation on request |        |   |
| Bedbugs - All properties                       |                      | 120.00 |   |
| All other insects (including wasps)            |                      | 70.00  |   |
| Rodent control treatment and advice            | No charge            |        |   |

**Appendix B - Hampshire Local Authority Pest Control Services and charges.**

| <b>Authority</b>    | <b>Rodents</b> | <b>Low income discount</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Portsmouth          | £50            | £25                        |
| Southampton         | £105           | £60                        |
| Winchester          | £80            | No discount advertised     |
| Havant              | £38            | Free                       |
| East Hants          | £60            | Free                       |
| Eastleigh           | £72            | £11                        |
| Test Valley         | £66            | Free                       |
| Basingstoke & Deane | -              | Concession only service    |
| Hart                | £63            | Free                       |
| Rushmoor            | Free           | Free                       |
| Fareham             | Free           | Free                       |
| Gosport             | Free           | Free                       |

## Appendix C - Local Pest Control Companies charges

|          | <b>Rodents</b>    | <b>Insects</b>  |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| <b>A</b> | £402              | Wasps £45 - £234,<br>Some only priced after<br>survey |
| <b>B</b> | £299 + VAT        |   |
| <b>C</b> | £180              |   |
| <b>D</b> | £160 +VAT         |   |
| <b>E</b> | £125 + VAT        |   |
| <b>F</b> | £120              |   |
| <b>G</b> | £110 - £165 + VAT |   |

## Appendix D – Proposed Pest Control Charges

| <b>Pest Control</b>                    |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Fleas, Bed bugs + unknown infestations | £30 to visit and quote |
| All other insects treated              | £70                    |
| Rodents                                | £60                    |

(Domestic premises are inclusive of VAT)

(Persons in Receipt of certain benefits – Free)



# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2017/18  
Decision No.  
1926

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 10 July 2017

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Portfolio</b>             | Health and Public Protection  |
| <b>Subject:</b>              | <b>Pest Control Services</b>  |
| <b>Report of:</b>            | Director of Planning & Regulation   |
| <b>Strategy/Policy:</b>      | Corporate Strategy  |
| <b>Corporate Objectives:</b> | A Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work; Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council |

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to review the Council's Pest Control Service, to bring it in line with other Hampshire Authorities. In particular to amend the fees and charges to introduce charging for rodent treatments, but also to ensure that the service is accessible to those in the community on the lowest incomes free of charge.

The Council has operated a Pest Control Service for a number of years and, apart from some very minor changes the Service has remained unchanged. It is essentially a service which provides free treatments to residents for rats and mice and a chargeable service for insects, although for people on low income the insect service is also currently free of charge. This report considers the options for the service going forward. These options range from not providing a service at all, to introducing charges for rodent treatments. Over the last few years most other Authorities in Hampshire have introduced charges for rodent treatments.

#### **Options Considered:**

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillors RH Price, JP, Mrs M Brady and S Cunningham addressed the Executive on this item.  
As recommendation.

#### **Decision:**

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to introduce charging for rodent treatments but to keep it free of charge for those on the lowest incomes, as detailed in Appendix D of the report;
- (b) to introduce a £30 fee to survey and quote for flea and bed bug treatments as a

standard charge doesn't reflect the work involved for heavy infestations of these insects; and

(c) to give delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Health to waive any charges in appropriate cases.

**Reason:**

It is necessary to amend the Pest Control Service to bring it in line with other Hampshire Authorities. In particular, to amend the fees and charges to introduce charging for rodent treatments, but also ensure that the service is accessible to those in the community on the lowest incomes. The additional income from rodent treatments will help the Council meet the difficult financial challenge it faces.

**Confirmed as a true record:** Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 10 July 2017