

PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Direct and Trading Advisory Committee – 6 October 2015

Report of Richard Wilson - Chief Officer, Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For information

Key Decision: No

This report supports the Key Aim of safe and caring communities; clean and healthy environment and effective management of council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer(s) Ian Finch – Head of Direct Services x7407

Recommendation to Direct & Trading Advisory Committee: That the Committee note the report.

Introduction and Background

At the meeting of the Local Planning and Environment Committee on 1 July 2014, a report was considered on the results of a competition exercise for providing the Pest Control Service.

It was resolved that:

- 1 It be recommended to Cabinet that following the evaluation of the competition exercise for the Pest Control Service, the service continues to be delivered by Sevenoaks Direct Services
- 2 A report on the income of the Pest Control Service is presented to the Advisory Committee in 12 months time; and
- 3 A further review of the Pest Control Service be undertaken in three years time.

Income

<u>2014/15</u>	<u>Budget £</u>	<u>Actual £</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Rodents	15,000	29,573	+14,573
Insects	41,686	35,823	-5,863
Contracts	11,000	11,764	+764
Total	67,687	77,160	+9,473

<u>2015/16 (to end Aug 15)</u>	<u>Budget £</u>	<u>Actual £</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Rodents	6,560	9,382	+2,822
Insects	31,510	32,995	+1,485
Contracts	4,650	4,438	-212
Total	42,720	46,815	+4095

Summary

For 2014/15 income was 14% above budget, and for 2015/16 up to the end of August income is 10% above profile and 23% higher than the position at August 2014. 487 wasp treatments have been carried out compared to 320 at the same period last year. There has also been 121 rodent treatments compared with 88 at the period last year.

Marketing

Increased marketing of the services offered has continued with press and radio coverage; articles in 'In-shape'; plus posters and cards left at commercial premises to try and gain a larger market share in the commercial sector. This marketing effort will continue.

Key Implications

Financial

At the end of August 2015 the Pest Control trading account is £12,047 in surplus, £3,089 better than profiled. In 2014/15 the pest Control trading account realised a small deficit (£4,388); £10,862 better than budget. The budget target for 2015/16 is for the account to break even.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There is no statutory duty to provide a Pest Control Service, although the Council does have duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, to take such steps as are necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that the District is kept free from rats and mice.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Background Papers:

Pest Control Financial and Performance Monitoring Reports 2014/15 and 2015/16

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services