

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives	<p>Priority 1 – Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities</p> <p>Priority 2 – Enhance the quality of people's lives</p>
Consultation:	Staff involved have been consulted on the Options evaluation matrix
Legal:	<p>There are legal requirements placed on local authorities to ensure that their area is kept free from rats and mice, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 (PDPA49).</p> <p>Whilst section 2 (1) of the PDPA49 imposes a requirement on all local authorities 'to take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice', it does not make reference to any other pests which may be of a public health significance. In addition, the Act does not place a duty on local authorities to provide a service for dealing with any pests, but does provide enforcement powers so that local authorities can require owners of land to undertake treatments for these pests where they are causing a significant problem. There is also other legislation in existence which can be used to require land or property owners to take action to address pest infestations.</p>
Financial:	Overall the service operates on a deficit to the Council of approximately £50k a year, although this can vary from year to year as is dependant to the variable income from the service.

	<p>Many of the options presented have financial risks associated to them, due to the unreliability of service demand.</p> <p>If option 1 is agreed, it is proposed that a budget of £5k is maintained in order for the Council to continue to support vulnerable residents and its public health commitments.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>By ceasing the service there are is the potential redundancy of 2 employees and accordingly the Councils redundancy policy and procedure will be followed.</p> <p>The removal of the service is likely to see a small increase in the quantity of public health work for Environmental Health due to having to offer advice or enforcing the legislation.</p> <p>Officers dealing with pest control enquiries will be trained in handling these to ensure quality of customer care and advice is maintained.</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>There is potential for criticism of the council as a result of changes to pest control service delivery; this is particularly the case where the service is discontinued completely for most residents.</p> <p>This however will be mitigated by demonstrating commitment to supporting vulnerable residents through a budget to assist with treatment of public health pests where no other support is available.</p> <p>This cost of treatment for the private sector may however encourage residents to treat pests themselves with the potential impact to non-target</p>

	<p>species through use of inappropriate pesticides and also creating resistance within the pest population due to lower level poisons being used.</p> <p>There is also the risk that residents will take no action to deal with pest problems and therefore impact on public health and environmental quality with the potential for increased complaints to the environmental health service under alternative legislation creating a pressure on existing resources.</p>
<p>Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:</p>	<p>Rodent infestations will have a detrimental impact upon the environment and impact upon the health and wellbeing of residents.</p> <p>The service safeguards public health by offering a low cost service for most pests to residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. A budget will be retained to support vulnerable people on low incomes who have public health pest infestations.</p>