Report of Environmental Health Manager

Report to Director of Communities and Environment

Date: 9th May 2018

Subject: Domestic Pest Control Service – Proposed extension of external contract

Are specific electoral wards affected?  
☐ Yes  ☒ No

If yes, name(s) of ward(s):

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  
☐ Yes  ☒ No

Is the decision eligible for call-in?  
☐ Yes  ☒ No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  
☐ Yes  ☒ No

If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: 

Appendix number:

Summary of main issues

1. Leeds City Council provides a domestic pest control service to owner occupiers, social and private landlords. The administration of the service is carried out internally but the actual pest control work is outsourced to a contractor.

2. The current contract was awarded to Mitie Pest Control to run from the 1st June 2016 until the 31st May 2018, with an option to extend for a further two periods of 12 months.

3. It is proposed to extend the contract for 12 months. Terms and conditions, including the current pricing schedule, will remain as agreed in the original contract for the duration of the extension.

Recommendations

The Director of Communities and Environment is requested to approve a 12 month extension to the contract with Mitie Pest Control.
1. **Purpose of this report**

1.1 To seek approval by the Director of Communities and Environment for an extension of the current domestic pest control contract for a period of 12 months, 1st June 2018 to 31st May 2019.

2. **Background information**

2.1 The implementation of a pest control treatment service is discretionary. It is a service provided by most local authorities, particularly targeting those pests considered a public health risk, such as rats, mice, cockroaches and bed bugs. Treatment is a separate issue to enforcement of statutory pest control legislation that remains a duty on the Council and is undertaken by the relevant enforcement officers.

2.2 The Council provides domestic pest control services to deal with a range of pests. The administration of the service is carried out internally but the actual pest control work itself is outsourced to a contractor. The Council charges customers directly and pays the contractor their agreed fee per job.

2.3 In April 2017 approval was given to bring the prices charged to the public by the Council broadly in line with the costs paid to the contractor in order to provide a cost neutral service. Prior to this contractor fees were greater than income to the Council.

2.4 The estimated cost to the Council of the 12 month extension of the contract is £178,450. There is budget provision for this amount.

3. **Main issues**

3.1 Although it is not statutory, the Council maintains a domestic pest control service for reasons of public health. The service is generally offered at a lower cost than most private providers and the customer has the added benefit of the Council monitoring contractor performance and the quality of work.

3.2 The approval of a contract extension will allow the current provision of service and customer pricing structure to continue.

3.3 It is recognised that some residents on limited incomes may be unable to pay for essential treatments. In such circumstances cases will be assessed on an individual basis with the option of providing treatments free of charge to protect public health.

3.4 Mitie Pest Control have provided an acceptable level of service over the 2 year contract period and have indicated they are willing to accept a contract extension under the existing contractual terms and conditions.

4. **Corporate considerations**

4.1 **Consultation and engagement**

4.1.1 A public consultation and price benchmarking exercise was carried out in March 2017 as part of the proposal to change customer charges. No further consultation has been undertaken in respect of the proposed contract extension.
4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 No issues relating to the extension of this contract.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

4.3.1 Domestic pests carry a wide range of disease causing organisms. Research has shown that living in pest infested premises is likely to have an adverse effect on physical and mental wellbeing. The provision of a sustainable and affordable domestic pest control service contributes towards the Best Council Plan priority of keeping people safe from harm and the Plan’s outcome that everyone should live in good quality homes with clean and cared for places. The eradication and prevention of pest infestations will also contribute towards the Council priority to reduce health inequalities.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The estimated cost of the 12 month extension of the contract to the Council is £178,450. There is budget provision for this amount.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 The current contract was procured in accordance with the Council’s contract procedures.
4.5.2 The Projects, Programmes and Procurement Unit has advised that it is lawful for the Council to extend this contract.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 The performance of the contractor and the associated costs will be routinely monitored as part of the usual contract and financial management arrangements by the Environmental Health Management Team. No additional risks have been identified.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The extension of the current contract for a period of 12 months represents value for money and allows for the continued provision of a domestic pest control service.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Communities and Environments is recommended to approve a 12 month extension to the current domestic pest control contract.
7. Background documents

7.1 None.

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1 The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.