

EE24. Re-establishment of Pest Control Services

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services which provided options on the reestablishment of a pest control service following the decision of Council at its budget meeting on 26 February 2020. The potential residential and commercial charges for 2020/21 were detailed together with three options for a charging regime.

Option 1 – This option applied the full rate of charge to all domestic properties. On a fully chargeable service based on 941 jobs, the budget allocated would result in a net cost of circa £53,000 over a full financial year. This option did not conform sufficiently with the Council's Concessions Policy to merit recommendation to members.

Option 2 - This option considered applying no charge for one treatment of a household where the householder was in receipt of a relevant benefit. For residents not in receipt of such benefits, the full rate of charge would apply. There was uncertainty in relation to the number of free requests for service that may arise, and this may result in the service being unable to cope with demand.

Option 3 – This proposal was that households would pay half of the option 1 charge. On this basis, the service was more likely to manage demand than if option 2 was adopted. If the service was provided at half price it was unclear what the level of service uptake would be. Approximately 20% of households would qualify for the half price concession. The financial and other impacts would sit somewhere between those of option 1 and option 2.

The rate of charge to commercial customers was proposed as £63.00 per callout and treatment, with subsequent visits charged at £31.50 plus a minimum charge of £12.50 for materials used. The Council's ability to service these customers was directly linked to the level of uptake/demand from domestic properties.

Councillor Garner, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved that the Emergency Executive, in light of the impact of the current coronavirus pandemic and consequent budgetary pressures on the Council at the present time, not establish a pest control service in the current financial year.

As an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved that the Emergency Executive agrees:-

- (1) to stand by the budget decision in February and reintroduce a Pest Control Service noting that this will be mainstreamed in the revenue budget, and
- (2) that Option 3 as set out in the report should be pursued.

The Emergency Executive adjourned at 11.40am and reconvened at 11.55am with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Garner, with the consent of the Convener and Councillor Alexander as his seconder, altered his motion to read as follows:-

The Emergency Executive agrees to continue consideration of a pest control service to Council in September.

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 12 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (5) – Councillors Alexander, Collie, Garner, McCue and Meiklejohn.

For the amendment (7) – Councillors Bissett, Coombes, Harris, Kerr, Nicol, Nimmo and Reid.

Decision

The Emergency Executive agreed the amendment.