

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest includes a crown with four maple leaves, a shield divided into four quadrants (top-left: a ship, top-right: a stag, bottom-left: a sailing ship, bottom-right: an eagle), and a banner at the bottom with the motto 'CITY OF VANCOUVER' in French. The text 'Agenda Item 14' is centered over the top half of the shield.

Agenda Item 14

Pest Control

Title: Pest Control
Meeting: Executive
Date: 29 October 2019
Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update in relation to pest control within the Falkirk Council area, following a decision of the Executive on 27 August 2019.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Executive is asked to:-

(1) Note what actions have been taken since changes were made to waste collections and disposal arrangements with effect from 1 April 2019.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 27 August 2019 the Executive noted that Council recognise that due to a number of service changes the possibility of an increase of reported vermin sightings may occur, equally Council recognised that the removal of the service may negatively impact the ability of the most vulnerable in our communities in addressing this issue.
- 3.2 Council requested Development Services to give consideration to the following:
1. Engage with pest control companies to see whether they could offer a better deal for Falkirk residents.
 2. Educating people as to how to prevent vermin from frequenting a particular area.
 3. Using our media team to promote residents understanding on how to deal with this problem.
 4. Look at other ways in which we might tackle this area collaboratively.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 Having taken advice from the Council's procurement service, it would not be appropriate for the Council to promote any particular pest control company over any other, however we have updated the Council website to the national "Buy with Confidence Scheme". All Council Premise Manager's have been advised of the Scotland Excel framework for approved pest control contractors, should they require this service.
- 4.2 Suitable information in relation to good waste housekeeping and examples of best practice regarding general vermin control are now detailed on the Council's website. With the recent introduction of the burgundy recycling bin, all householders were provided with a recycling guide, which reminded householders of which containers their waste should be placed advocating the use of the weekly food collection service. The Council's media team have commenced a social media campaign in relation to good waste management practice and general good waste housekeeping information – which will help reduce the risk of vermin occurrence, complementing the recently issued recycling guide.
- 4.3 Development Services are working with Council colleagues to minimise opportunity for vermin occurrence, reinforcing tenancy conditions and working alongside private housing associations. Examples include on-going liaison among Waste Services, Environmental Health teams and Housing Services to ensure domestic waste is appropriately maintained/contained within waste containers provided. Additionally Environmental Enforcement, Street Cleansing and Environmental Health teams collaborate to ensure appropriate waste provision and street containers exist at and nearby commercial premises – this includes visiting premises and offering advice/necessary action, ensuring compliance with the associated Waste Regulations and Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse.
- 4.4 In conjunction with and in recognition of the forthcoming Falkirk Council Strategy on Litter, the network of community litter volunteer groups continues to develop with all activity focussed and co-ordinated towards appropriate locations and ensuring that waste is uplifted timeously. Once approved the forthcoming strategy will be promoted through a range of media with an emphasis on litter prevention, education and where appropriate, enforcement.
- 4.5 Following the removal of the pest control service, there has not been an increase in vermin/pest control complaints direct to council officers however, members should and are passing on any complaints they receive as confirmed by Environmental Health and Waste Management Services. Whilst there have been a number of changes in relation to the way waste is collected across the authority, there has been no change to the weekly food collection service, which should be the only food source for vermin. Therefore if householders are using their waste and recycling provision correctly there should be no food source available given the outside food containers can be secured.
- 4.6 There is now a £30 charge for the collections of bulky items. This service is for the uplift of household items which do not provide a food source for vermin.

5. Consultation

5.1 Nil.

6. Implications

Financial

6.1 Nil

Resources

6.2 Required promotions as highlighted within the body of the report will be met from existing resources. Any opportunity for funding will be pursued via Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland.

Legal

6.3 Nil

Risk

6.4 Nil.

Equalities

6.5 Nil

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

6.6 Nil

7. Conclusions

7.1 Through a comprehensive engagement campaign, Falkirk Council residents have access to good information in relation to appropriate disposal of waste items. This should ensure, along with proper use of the kerbside collection system or commercial waste collections arrangements, that any cause for attraction of vermin is minimised.

Director of Development Services

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