

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee: 26 March 2008

Subject: Review of Pest Control Service Charges 2008/2009

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider a revised charging structure for the provision of Pest Control Services from 1 April 2008.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 It was agreed at the 14 February 2008 meeting of the Council that the Pest Control Service should be made cost neutral by generating an additional £40,000 income.
- 2.2 Local Authorities have a statutory duty in terms of the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act 1948 to take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as is reasonably practicable that its area is free from rats and mice including;
- carry out inspections
 - destroying rats and mice on premises which the Local Authority occupies and keeping the premises free from rats and mice
 - enforcing duties on owners and occupiers of land to ensure that their land is free from rats and mice.
- 2.3 The Pest Control Service was historically extended beyond its statutory duty to include treatments for certain household insect pests of public health significance.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 In order to achieve a cost neutral Pest Control Service, additional charges require to be introduced and existing charges increased.
- 3.2 The current service costs and proposed charges are detailed in Appendix 1 for the Committee to consider.
- 3.3. The policies for charging for Pest Control Services vary between Local Authorities. A summary of charging policies of other Scottish Local Authorities is provided in Appendix 2.

4.0 Personnel Issues

- 4.1 The Pest Control Service currently employs two full time officers. Should the proposals be fully accepted an additional officer may require to be employed, however it is expected that any future staff costs will be offset by the new charging scheme.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The financial implications are detailed in Appendix 1.

6.0 Risk Analysis

6.1 Failure to increase and introduce further charges will not sustain the desired cost neutral Pest Control Service.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 In order to achieve a cost neutral Pest Control Service existing charges require to be increased and further charges introduced.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 The Committee approve the proposed charges detailed in Appendix 1 from 1 April 2008.

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Date:

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Appendices: Appendix 1. Pest Control Service Proposed Charges 2008/2009

Appendix 2. Other Local Authority Pest Control Charges (2007)

Background Papers: Action Sheet from Council Meeting 14 February 2008

Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee
5 June 1996

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1 - Pest Control Service Proposed Charges 2008/2009

A. Net Cost of Service (2006/2007): **£39,102**

B. Proposed Service Charges

- (i) Introduce a **£30** charge for all private domestic insect/rodent complaints. This will result in an additional **£14,500** income (based on an average number of service requests from 1996 to 2006).
- (ii) Increase current private wasp complaint charge to **£30** (currently £18.75). This will result in an additional **£5,400** additional income (based on 2007/2008 service requests).
- (iii) Introduce a **£30** charge for all Registered Social Landlord (RSL's) pest control complaints. There are approximately 4,500 houses owned by RSL's. There has never been an established charging policy in respect of RSL's.

An additional **£12,300** income would be achieved by the proposed charge (based on average number of RSL service requests from 1996 to 2006)

- (iv) An additional **£10,365** will be secured from Housing Services due to an increase in the block charge rate to **£1.92** for 2008/2009.

Based on the above proposals the service will make a small net income return of **£3,463**.

C. Further savings could be achieved through undertaking internal pest control work on behalf of the Department of Housing Environmental and Economic Development. Current estimates show that **£27,000** is spent on external pest control contractors. Further discussion will take place with officers from the Department of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

Appendix 2

Other Local Authority Pest Control Charges (2007)

COUNCIL	Pest	Charge	Comments
Inverclyde Council	Rats & Mice	£43.26 + vat	Only treat domestic properties for a maximum of 3 treatment visits
	Wasps	£33.87 + vat per nest £16.94 + vat for each additional visit	OAP's free of charge
	Insects	-	Only provide advice except for Fleas & bedbugs when we provide treatment F.O.C. We will do fumigations if necessary.
Dumfries & Galloway Council	Rats, mice wasps, cockroaches, fleas, silverfish, ants, bedbugs, psocids, spider beetles, grain weevils and other pests of public health importance	£27.00 inclusive of vat – initial visit (domestic) Revisit £19.00 inclusive of vat (domestic) Commercial for each visit £37.00 + vat	Some pest control contracts are arranged based on the commercial visit charge
South Lanarkshire Council	Rats, Mice, Wasps, Bees	All charged at £41.40	Also treat for any other insects of PH significance, for free. Also, the charges apply to private owners; for Housing tenants, the charges are picked up by the Housing dept.
	Squirrel eradication	£60.20 where property has been proofed	
	Squirrel eradication	£120.80 where property hasn't been proofed (charges inclusive of vat)	
Stirling Council	Domestic Rats & Mice	F.O.C.	
	Commercial Rats & Mice	£58.00	
	Domestic - Ants, Wasps, Honey Bees, Bumble Bees, Beetles, Flies Bluebottles, Psocids , Flour Mite, Silverfish, Earwigs, Slugs & Snails, Woodlice	£31.00	

	Commercial - Ants, Wasps, Honey Bees, Swarms, Bumble Bees, Beetles, Cockroaches, Flies Bluebottles, Bedbugs, Lice, Fleas, Psocids, Flour Mites, Silverfish, Earwigs, slugs & Snails, Woodlice,	£58.00	
North Lanarkshire Council			Don't charge for any domestic pest control visits.
Argyll & Bute Council	Rodent or Insect Pests Domestic (external)	£46.81 + £8.19 = £55.00	Standard Charge includes £15.00 non refundable survey cost – Payment must be made in advance. If no treatment is required a refund of £40 will be made to the customer.
	Rodent or Insect Pests - Commercial Survey & Treatment up to 30 minutes Subsequent Treatment per 20 minutes	£50.21 + £8.79 = £59.00 £30.54 + £5.42 = £36.30	
	Issue of Rodent Control Certificate	£92.77 + £16.23 = £109.00	
	Eradication of Rodent or Insect Pests Internal	£50.21	
Glasgow City Council	Wasps	£47.00	Use contractors – charge non transferable
			Do not do insects. Only rats and mice – mice indoors only. Insects for other council services e.g, ants in primary schools but charge for this.
Renfrewshire Council	Wasps	£32.30 including vat	Wasps – the only residential pest treatment charged
North Ayrshire Council	Rats/Mice domestic	£47.00 + vat up to three visits	
	Domestic Insects/Wasps & bees	£29.00 + vat per treatment	
	Fumigations/spray	£58.00 + vat per treatment	
	Commercial Rats/Mice/insects	£47 + vat per visit	

East Ayrshire Council	Wasps, Bees and insect infestations	£47 including vat	Do not charge if in a council house – housing picks up the cost
	Mice and rats (covers 3 visits)	£58.75 including vat	
South Ayrshire Council	Rats, mice, wasps and bees (high priority) Woodlice, ants, fleas etc. (low priority)	£45.10	
East Dunbartonshire Council	Wasps	Residential £20.00 inclusive of vat Commercial £51.75 + vat	
	Rats, Mice (indoor only) Insects other than ants	No charge for residential Commercial charge £25.88 per hour + materials + vat	
East Renfrewshire Council	Rats Mice and insects	Rats, mice and insects of public health significance are treated free of charge within domestic premises.	
	Intruder insects such as Wasps and Ants	£30.20	No charge is made to residents receiving income support. Housing pick up the charge for treatment in council properties.