

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PORTFOLIO HOLDER
For Pre-decision scrutiny by the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee on

Date: Wednesday 8 April 2015

Decision Type: Urgent Non-Executive Key

Title: DOG KENNELING

Contact Officer: Jim McGowan, Head of Environmental Protection
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

The Council has set a programme to test the Market with regard to all of the Public Protection Services, which include the dog kennelling services. The service for dog kennelling is currently in the process of being tendered but it is considered more appropriate that the tender process should be suspended such that the overall Public Protection market testing can be aligned to include the Dog Warden Services when the service is market tested.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to consider and approve the extension of the LB Bromley dog kennelling and re-homing services with Woodlands Animalcare Ltd for a period of 21 months to 30 April 2017, to allow the contract to be aligned with the proposed market testing of the whole of Public Protection services in April 2017.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Within existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council Safer Bromley
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £169.6k
 2. Ongoing costs: £97k per annum
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Environmental Protection – Other Hired Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £97k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue funding 2015/16
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): n/a
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 Woodlands Kennels provide the following services:

- They receive stray dogs collected by the Bromley appointed contractor and undertake the safe custody and care of said animals until release if authorised by the Council. All relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance and good practice relating to the welfare of dogs are followed.
- Upon arrival at the kennel, they carry out a formal assessment of the dog within 5 days in terms of breed and temperament.
- Where a dog is classified and assessed as dangerous in terms of breed or temperament the contractor will arrange euthanasia.
- Where a dog requires veterinary treatment, at the kennels the Council pay all associated bills.
- Any unclaimed and suitable dogs are put into the contractor re-homing process, subject to the minimum statutory stay. Where a dog is not deemed suitable for re-homing due to temperament at this stage, the contractor arranges euthanasia.
- The Service Section and the Lead Commissioner is Public Protection.

3.2 Future service requirements are as described in section 3.1 for a period of twenty-one months with effect from 1 August 2015.

3.3 The contract for the statutory provision of kennelling is provided by Woodlands Animalcare Ltd at a cost of approximately £96.9k pa. This figure is an average from the last three years as the actual amount varies, dependent upon the number and type of stray and abandoned dogs that are dealt with annually.

3.4 The current contract came into force on 1st December 2012 for one year, but this contract has been extended and is now due to expire on 31st July 2015, as a result of a previous contract extension coming to an end. The current contract extension was to allow negotiations with neighbouring Boroughs to proceed with a shared service, the erection of a shared kennel facility and/or to complete the tender process. However, these initiatives were unsuccessful and the contract is now subject to the process of re tendering.

3.5 Due to the new initiative proposed by the Council that all of the Public Protection Division is to be market tested, as part of the Total Facilities Management package, the Council is currently setting all of the existing contracts to be co-terminus with the proposed dates for the TFM proposal. This is in accordance with the general Decision taken by the Executive when they considered the proposed Total Facilities Management report, presented to the Executive on 15th October 2014, reference para 4.7.

3.6 It is proposed that the Public Protection Division contract would start in April 2017 and this report proposes that the contract for Dog Kennelling Services be extended to 30 April 2017.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Within existing policy.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows the total contract value with Woodlands Animalcare Ltd, should the extension to 30 April 2017 be agreed: -

	Contract Value £
Contract spend from 1.12.12 to 31.3.15	159,050
Estimated contract spend 1.4.15 to 31.7.15 (waiver)	32,300
Value of proposed extension to 30.4.17	<u>169,600</u>
Total contract value with SDK Environmental Ltd	<u>360,950</u>

5.2 The current annual budget for this contract is £97k.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, sections 149 -151, and the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005, the Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide a 24/7 dog collection service and kennelling service for confined dogs.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The dog kennelling service is currently contracted out, with minimal client contract administrative and managerial responsibilities remaining as the responsibility of the London Borough of Bromley.

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	The Proposed Total Facilities Management Report to the Executive on 15 th October 2014, reference para 4.7.