

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: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Key

Title: DOG WARDEN SERVICES

Contact Officer: Jim McGowan, Head of Environmental Protection
Tel: 020 8313 4651 E-mail: Jim.McGowan@bromley.gov.uk

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 Division, which include the dog warden services. The dog warden service 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 service can be aligned to include the Dog Warden when the service is market tested in 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Portfolio Holder is asked to consider and approve the extension of the LB Bromley dog warden services with SDK Environment 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: £111.3k
 2. Ongoing costs: £64k per annum
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Environmental Protection – Other Hired Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £64k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue funding for 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: na/
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Legal

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

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

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

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The dog warden contract provided by SDK Environmental Ltd provides:

- An integrated back office administrative service to receive and process all customer service enquiries received from the authority accessible during normal office hours, including delivery of all required information necessary for the maintenance of the statutory Found Dog Register.
- The investigation and subsequent serving, if necessary, of statutory notices 149 & 150 with copies being passed to the Council electronically.
- A dog collection service for confined dogs on a 24/7 basis in compliance with the EPA and CN & E Act Section 68.
- The service includes the delivery of seized dogs to a nominated reception point during “kennel opening hours” and temporary holding and care of dogs at SDK’s holding unit at times when the Council’s kennels are closed for the reception of dogs.
- Delivery of veterinary care as required.
- Arrangement of alternative kennelling where quarantine impositions exist on contracted kennels that did not permit any dog movements during this period due to kennel cough, parvo virus or similar.
- Implementation of a processing system for banned breeds, integrated with the Metropolitan Police Status Dog Unit.
- Provision of statistical reports to detail service use, demonstrate contract compliance, provide invoice verification and measure SLA’s.
- The Service Section and the Lead Commissioner is Public Protection.

3.2 It is proposed that these services continue for an additional period of twenty-one months from 1st August 2015 so that the services can be tendered in conjunction with all other public protection services with effect from 31 March 2017.

3.3 The contract for the statutory dog warden services is provided by SDK Environmental Ltd., at a cost of £63.6k pa .

3.4 The current contract came into force on 1st December 2012 for one year, but this contract 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 Warden 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 SDK Environmental Ltd, should the extension to 30 April 2017 be agreed: -

	Contract Value £
Contract spend from 1.12.12 to 31.3.15	148,321
Estimated contract spend 1.4.15 to 31.7.15 (waiver)	21,189
Value of proposed extension to 30.4.17	<u>111,300</u>
Total contract value with SDK Environmental Ltd	<u>280,810</u>

5.2 The current annual budget for this contract is £64k.

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 full dog warden services are currently contracted out, with minimal client contract administrative and managerial responsibilities remaining as the responsibility of the London Borough of Bromley.