



CABINET- 9TH APRIL 2013

**SUBJECT: COLLABORATION –DELIVERY OF PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR
BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to enter into a collaborative working arrangement for pest control services with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council's Environmental Health service propose to enter into a Service Level Agreement to deliver the pest control service for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The Service Level Agreement is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The cost to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council of the SLA will be £60,000 per annum. The agreement to be effective for a duration of five years from the 15th April 2013 and will expire on the 31st March 2018.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 A living environment that is increasingly safe, healthy and clean.
- 3.2 Provision of accessible, responsive and effective services that satisfy our customers' need.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 In December 2011 a Compact for Change was agreed between the Welsh Government and Welsh local government. The Compact, is "based on the development of voluntary collaborations between Councils" and signals a joint commitment to reform aimed at delivering improved and cost effective services to communities across Wales.
- 4.2 Discussions have taken place between Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Councils with a view to Caerphilly Council delivering the pest control service for Blaenau Gwent via a Service Level Agreement. The value of the Service Level Agreement will be £60,000 per annum. The agreement is proposed to last five years and effective from the 15th April 2013 to the 31st March 2018. Such an arrangement will provide financial savings of £26,000 per year for Blaenau Gwent Council and will strengthen the resilience of the existing team. Caerphilly County Borough Council will pursue income generating opportunities, including the pest control treatments at the Blaenau Gwent Civic Amenities sites, valued at approximately £2,000 per annum and contracts with Welsh Water to bait the Blaenau Gwent sewers valued at approximately £4,000 per annum.

- 4.3 The Caerphilly Council pest control service delivers a comprehensive range of services including pest control, animal trespass, dog warden and education services. The Service Level Agreement will provide only pest control services to Blaenau Gwent Council. The Caerphilly team has a complement of one supervisor and four operatives. It is calculated that approximately 1800 service requests will be transferred from Blaenau Gwent Council, requiring one additional pest control operative in the team, thus increasing the total number of operatives to five.
- 4.4 Blaenau Gwent Council has a complement of two pest control operatives that technically would be eligible to transfer to Caerphilly County Borough Council under TUPE arrangements. However, one operative has chosen to take voluntary redundancy and therefore will not take advantage of the TUPE arrangement.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no potential equalities implications of this report and its recommendations on groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan. There is no requirement for an Equalities Impact Assessment Questionnaire to be completed for this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The total price for the services is £60,000 per year as amended from time to time in accordance with clause 6.2 in the Service Level Agreement. The total price, excludes VAT, which Caerphilly County Borough Council shall add to its invoices at the appropriate rate. This covers the salary and on-costs of one additional member of staff (as a result of TUPE transfer from Blaenau Gwent Council), vehicle and running costs, pesticides, IT and phone usage, etc.
- 6.2 Over a five year period, there may be changes in service demand or an increase in costs. The Service Level Agreement therefore takes into account that Caerphilly County Borough Council may review and increase or decrease the charges, provided that such charges cannot be increased more than once in any 12-month period.
- 6.3 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will also be required to contribute to any shared costs that arise including but not limited to re-organisation of staff.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council Pest and Animal Control Service currently has a team of one supervisor and four operatives and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council a team of two operatives, giving a total of seven members of staff. Blaenau Gwent Council therefore has two pest control operatives that would be technically eligible to transfer to Caerphilly Council on the 15th April 2013 in line with TUPE legislation and guidance. However, it is calculated that to deliver the Pest Control service for both Councils, only one extra operative would be required. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has reported that one operative has chosen to take voluntary redundancy.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below, and there are no consultation responses, which have not been reflected in the recommendations.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Cabinet give approval to enter into a Service Level Agreement to deliver the Pest Control Service for Blaenau Gwent Council for five years effective from the 15th April 2013.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To reduce financial cost, maximise income and provide an increasingly resilient service.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Section 101, section 117 and section 136 Local Government Act 1972

Author: Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager
Consultees: Councillor David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services
Sandra Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Daniel Perkins, Head of Legal Services
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services
Gareth Hardacre, Head of People Management and Development
Neil Funnell, Branch Secretary of the GMB Union
Gary Enright, Branch Secretary of the UNISON Union

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Service level Agreement