

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	2 October 2017
Report of the	-	Executive Director of Business Operations
Subject	-	Tendering of Stray Dogs Contract

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That the Executive Director of Business Operations be authorised to jointly tender a contract for the provision of services related to the seizure, kennelling and re-homing of stray dogs.

Service Manager: Richard Parker-Harding
Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Hollidge

Introduction

1. The Council's current stray dog control service is carried out by a private contractor: the contract expires in March 2018. Minute CB12/05 refers.

Stray Dogs

2. In 2013 the Council entered into a three year contract with Animal Wardens Ltd, which included the option to extend the contract by two years to 31 March 2018. This option was enacted. The service falls into three main areas of work:
 - (i) the collection and transportation of stray dogs within four hours of being notified;
 - (ii) the kennelling and care of dogs for up to seven days; and
 - (iii) the re-homing of unclaimed dogs after the seven day period.
3. The Council is legally obliged to seize dogs and kennel stray dogs for seven days, after which time the dog becomes the property of the Council. The contractor can seek to recover the costs of the kennelling and transportation of the dog from the owner, if the owner reclaims the dog. The service complies with the statutory code of practice and currently costs the Council £40,000 per annum.
4. The procurement will be undertaken using the East Sussex Procurement Hub and will include Hastings, Rother and Wealden Councils. There is a possibility that Eastbourne and Lewes will also take part. It is anticipated that this joint procurement will minimise any increase in costs.
5. The environmental health shared service management agreement with Wealden District Council (WDC) includes this service. Therefore the contract will include the provision of a stray dog service for WDC as well. The cost being re-charged to WDC.

Conclusion

6. Approval is sought to tender the stray dog control contract this year, as the contract expires in March 2018 and this is the most cost effective way of providing this statutory service.

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director of Business Operations

Risk Assessment Statement

Failure to approve the authority to tender for a stray dog contract will mean the service ceases in March 2018 and Rother District Council will have to employ its own dog warden, kennelling and re-housing service to meet its statutory obligations at a cost greater than would otherwise be achieved through joint procurement.