

INCOME REVIEW 2016 – NEW CHARGES

Extract from **Income Review 2016** report considered by the Executive on 25th August, 2016.

PEST CONTROL

17. Due to recent Legislation around the use of certain rodenticides, pest control operators have to concentrate on the 'hierarchy of control', which means that they must also aim to pest proof buildings and reduce food sources and places to live for the rodents. Operators cannot simply rely on rodenticides. The problem with having a free pest control service is that often residents are not taking the advice of the pest control officers and simply expect that we will return to kill the rodents time and time again. This is neither an efficient use of officer time nor an effective way of controlling pests.
18. To help address this, the Executive is asked to consider the introduction of a fee for dealing with rats, mice and cockroaches in domestic premises. Currently, these services are provided free of charge to residents. It is considered that the introduction of a fee will also serve the following purposes:
 - Encourage residents to 'own' their pest problem and take the advice of the pest control officer.
 - It is anticipated that the number of requests for service will decrease through reduction of repeat call outs. This will allow time for pest control officers to seek other chargeable work, such as commercial contracts or chargeable investigation work (e.g., camera investigations of drains) and pest proofing.
19. Whilst the introduction of a charge would generate additional income, residents would retain access to a service at a price that is competitive in comparison to commercial operators. For this purpose a charge of £20 (+VAT) is proposed for up to 3 visits whereas commercial operators charge around £60-£70 for 3 visits and £20 per additional visit. Service volumes have averaged 1,156 requests over the past seven years. A charge of £20, if agreed, could generate additional income to the Council of £23,120 assuming no reduction in demand. The likelihood is that service requests would fall. A 25% to 50% reduction in demand would result in additional income of between £17,340 and £11,560.