

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

13 July 2011

**Joint Report of the Director of Health and Housing and Cabinet Member for
Environmental Services**

Part 1- Public

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken
by the Cabinet Member)**

1 DOG WARDEN SERVICES

Summary

The report considers an option to extend, for one year, our Dog Warden services contract with Animal Wardens Ltd.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In April, 2006 the Council commenced a contract with Animal Wardens Ltd for the provision of our dog warden services. The contract provides for a Dog Warden who works closely with officers in the Waste and Street Scene Services team. The service deals with stray dogs and dog-related problems, for example, fouling in public areas, noise complaints etc. The contract commenced on 1 April, 2006 and was let for a five year period with an option to extend for a further two year period.

1.1.2 Animal Wardens' performance over the past 12 months has generally been found to be good which reflects the efforts of the Dog Warden who is often complimented on the way she goes about her job.

1.1.3 A one year extension was previously approved which means that the contract presently expires in February, 2012.

1.2 Proposed Changes

1.2.1 The services of the incumbent contractors for pest control services and the cleaning of public conveniences have recently been authorised for extension by the granting of new short term contracts using the waiver provisions set out in our contracts procedure rules. Both of these contracts will end in February, 2013. An extension of the dog warden services contract, by one year, to February, 2013 is proposed. The extension would be on the basis of existing costs and specification. This would allow us to make efficiency savings as only one procurement process will need to be undertaken for the three contracts. It may

also identify opportunities for linking providers of these services should joint tenders be received for more than one of the services being procured.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The existing contract provides for the contract to be extended as recommended by this report.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The Dog Warden contract is budgeted at £43,000 in 2011/12. The continuation of the existing arrangements for a further 12 months represents good value for money.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 The retention of a competent contractor for a further year will secure a sustainable service which is highly valued by service users.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 Cabinet are recommended to **APPROVE** the extension of the Council's dog warden services contract with Animal Wardens Ltd for a further year up to February, 2013.

The Director of Health and Housing confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Phil Beddoes

Nil

John Batty
Director of Health and Housing

Councillor Howard Rogers
Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	No impacts have been identified on community groups.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	The contract will be extended without change to the existing specification.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?	N/A	

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.