

CABINET

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) ANIMAL WELFARE, (STRAY DOGS, KENNELING AND REHOMING) CONTRACT

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Non Confidential

Purpose

To seek Cabinet approval to invite tenders for the Animal Welfare, (Stray Dogs, Kennelling And Rehoming) Contract.

Recommendations

To authorise the Head of Environmental Health to invite tenders and appoint a contractor for kennelling, collection, re-homing and associated services in respect of stray dogs in Tamworth.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The collection and kennelling covered by this report are delivered by external contractors and there are therefore no human resource implications bar dealing with customer enquiries and Contract Management.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Council is statutorily obliged, by virtue of Section 149 Environmental Protection Act 1990, and the Environmental Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992, to provide a stray dog service. With effect from 06 April 2008, Local Authorities became solely responsible for the collection and receipt of all stray dogs, similar responsibilities having been removed from the Police by Section 68 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Failure to make adequate arrangements for stray dogs could leave the Council open to claims of maladministration and possible legal action from owners or other animal welfare organisations. The control of stray dogs is an emotive subject with members of the public. In addition to the legal minimum duties that must be satisfied in respect of provision of a stray dog service, there are also animal welfare considerations, reinforced by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In order to protect its reputation and avoid adverse publicity the Council must be seen to deliver a service that meets its statutory obligations but is also sensitive to public concerns, whilst ensuring that animals in its care are treated appropriately.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The effective control of stray dogs will enable the three corporate priorities, Living a quality life in Tamworth', Growing Strong in Tamworth' and Delivering quality services in Tamworth' to be met by reducing the incidence of dog-

fouling, irresponsible breeding and other potential nuisances, together with creating a safer environment with reduced road traffic accidents and attacks from dogs in public places. Use of public open space is also enhanced by the absence of stray dogs.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The service will continue to ensure that all dog owners are dealt with equitably via an equality impact assessment.

Background

The current contract is let jointly between East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) and Tamworth Borough Council and runs from 2014 to 2019. In January 2018, ESBC advised that they wished to withdraw from the current arrangement. Cabinet approval is needed to enable invitations to tender. A new ITT has been developed and authority is sought to put arrangements in place to ensure continuity of service.

Financial Implications

The value is approximately £25-30k per year. A review of the current demand on the service reveals the annual spend to be around £14-16K per year.

Report Author

"If Members would like further information or clarification prior to the meeting please contact Steve Lewis , Head of Environmental Health Tel: 01827 709437