

Record of Decisions

Review of Pest Control Services

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 11 August 2020.

Decision

- i) That the Council should instruct SWISCo to cease providing the existing free pest control service, for residential properties, from 1st September 2020; and
- ii) That SWISCo Ltd is requested to offer a chargeable pest control service and that improved pest control guidance and advice is provided to the public via the Council website.

Reason for the Decision

Many local authorities no longer offer pest control services because there are qualified service providers working in their area. Many household pests can be dealt with by using humane traps and chemicals available in shops and DIY stores. Residents can also be advised to call in the experts to solve a persistent problem with pests. If householders require professional help they can use the internet, trade or business directory to find a suitably qualified service provider.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 24 August 2020 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

An opportunity exists to review the provision of pest control services for residential properties. Pest control in residential properties is not a statutory function and the Council has not provided this service directly for over 10 years. The Council could decide to simply provide advice and guidance, like many other local authorities, and remove the current obligation for SWISCo to provide a free service for rats and mice.

It is proposed that SWISCo are requested to offer a chargeable service for all forms of residential pest control, including the treatment of rats and mice.

Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

Alternative options were set out in the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

14 August 2020

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet