Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Colin Clayton

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Head of Section: Colin Clayton

Chief Officer: Mark Smith

Directorate: Regeneration and Environment

Date: 21 October 2014

Section 2: The Pest Control Service currently delivers a number of free services which includes providing expert advice to all service users, a surveying service which is used to identify environmental factors associated with pest infestations in our communities, a free treatment service for rats and cockroaches and a subsidised service for mice.

These services are subsidised by a developed commercial service and chargeable domestic service for wasps, fleas and ants. This budget option proposes to deliver savings of £67,000 through a radical review of the service to deliver a more commercially focused business that delivers as a minimum a cost neutral service with a longer term objective of generating a surplus of commercial revenue which can be used to maintain a value domestic service for the treatment of rats and mice.

As part of this service review it proposed that the Senior Pest Control officer (Team Leader) post would be deleted which would provide a saving of £41,000 which also includes the saving of one van. As part of this saving the service would no longer have a resource to provide any free advice or environmental surveying. Furthermore there would be no capacity to backfill the frontline operational services during leave, sickness or busy seasonal periods. During these periods there would be significant delays in responding to service requests.

The budget option also proposes a 10% increase for all domestic and commercial service charges and the introduction of a charge for rats and cockroaches of £25. It is projected that this would generate an additional income of £26,000 per annum.
Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Policy & Performance Committee?

No

If ‘yes’ please state which meeting and what date

Please add hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council’s website (please select appropriate link & delete those not relevant)


Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect…… (please tick relevant boxes)

√ Services

√ The workforce

√ Communities

☐ Other (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

☐ None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)
Section 4: Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which group(s) of people could be affected</th>
<th>Potential positive or negative impact</th>
<th>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</th>
<th>Lead person</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Resource implications</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low socio-economic groups</td>
<td>The main negative implication for this budget option is the introduction of the charge for rats. Although this charge is still being subsidised the continuing subsidy relies on the success of the commercial services. Service users who are dissatisfied with this charge could choose to self treat or opt to use the wide range of commercial businesses, large and small, that offer pest control services in Wirral. A positive benefit is that Local businesses may benefit from the review of this service as the Local Authority will be competing on a more commercial basis with reduced subsidies.</td>
<td>To mitigate the impact of this budget option every effort will be made to maximise the information on the website to help members of the public prevent infestations of pests such as rats and mice. There are also a number of private businesses which operate in Wirral that offer pest control services and a number of well known DIY stores located in Wirral that sell a range of products that can be used to control the</td>
<td>Colin Clayton</td>
<td>1 April 2015.</td>
<td>Newly designed service to be delivered by reduced staff.</td>
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common pest which Wirral Council currently treat. If this budget option was approved the Call Centre staff would be trained to provide general advice on where to go to get advice on home treatments and that a number of alternative private pest control companies operate in Wirral.

| Staff | The implementation of this budget option will require the post of the Senior Pest Control Officer (Team Leader) to be deleted. | The post holder has made a written request for early voluntary retirement which is being considered. | Human Resources | Corporate and statutory timescales as dictated by Council Policy. | Within existing resources. |
Section 5: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Colin Clayton will lead the implementation of the budget option which will include updating of the website and training of the call Centre staff. HR will lead on the process for accepting the application for early voluntary retirement.

Section 5a: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Through our network of professional contacts across Merseyside and Cheshire work has been undertaken to compare Wirral’s Pest Control service against its’ peers. This budget option was then developed to meet the unique challenges faced by Wirral Council to offer an affordable service within the limitations of available finances and resources.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes

If ‘yes’ please continue to section 8.

If ‘no’ please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)
Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

The ‘Future Council’ consultation process which includes consultation on this budget option resulted in online questionnaires, hard copies, targeted, face to face consultation and statutory consultation with the Trade Unions.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it’s legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to engage@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

a) Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2a)

b) Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 4)

c) Send this EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?

d) Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to engage@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?