

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 26 April 2016

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

SUBJECT: New Charges – Environmental Health Service

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a schedule of new charges for services delivered/proposed to be delivered by the Environmental Health Service.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approve:
- a) the schedule of new charges for services delivered/proposed to be delivered by the Environmental Health Service
 - b) in principle, subject to the conclusion of the service review, the establishment of a pest control treatment service.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Charging (to recover the costs of providing a discretionary service) is an innovative method of working to meet local needs through delivering value for money, sustaining quality of service provision.
- 3.2 As part of a review of the Environmental Health Service chargeable activities, including the proposal to establish a pest control treatment service, have been identified to generate income, in order to preserve, maximise and augment frontline service delivery.
- 3.3 The implementation of a pest control treatment service is discretionary. It is a service provided by most local authorities, particularly targeting those pests considered a public health risk, such as rats and mice.

Treatment is a separate issue to enforcement of statutory pest control legislation that remains a duty on the Council.

- 3.4 The Council is not required to undertake pest control treatment but, if it chooses to do so, there is no requirement to offer this service free of charge.
- 3.5 Other powers and duties regarding public health pests are included in other Environmental Health legislation, for example in relation to Food Safety, Public Health and Housing.
- 3.6 The following tables detail example levels of calls received by neighbouring authorities' pest control services and associated charges levied.

	Rats / Mice	Wasps	Other Pests	Total Enquiries
West Lothian	507	856	460	1823
Scottish Borders	761	226	228	1215
Midlothian	n/a	n/a	n/a	597

Number of calls received by Local Authority (2014-15)

	Rats / Mice	Wasps	Other insects
West Lothian	62.00	43.50	49.50
Scottish Borders	57.60	57.60	57.60
Midlothian	60.00	37.20	37.20 (60.00 bedbugs)

Charges levied by Local Authority (2015-16)

- 3.7 New charges for the treatment of pests by East Lothian Council is appended in Appendix A.
- 3.8 A concessionary rate has been introduced for Pest Control treatment. Charges for services will be reduced by 50% for domestic occupiers who are in receipt of the following, to maximise access of the service and ensure treatment of pests is not cost prohibitive:
- Housing Benefit
 - Income Support
 - Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
 - Universal Credit
 - Pension Credit
- 3.9 Through the implementation of a Pest Control treatment service and associated charges, East Lothian Council is introducing choice to its residents, whilst sustaining communities in introducing concessionary rates.
- 3.10 Sampling charges are also being introduced to ensure costs associated with requested sampling by individuals, organisations or companies are fully recovered by the Environmental Health Service. No charge will be levied for any sampling necessary in terms of Food Safety, Public Health and other investigative requirements. These charges are detailed in the appended paper, Appendix A.
- 3.11 A Certificate of Suitability may also be referred to as a Section 50 Certificate, as required under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The law requires that premises comply with the requirements of the regulations made under section 16 of the Food Safety Act 1990 relating to

construction, layout, drainage, ventilation, lighting and water supply or concerned with the provision of sanitary and washing facilities. A Charge for the provision of this Certificate is being introduced, as detailed in the appended paper, Appendix A.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The East Lothian Plan 2012-2017, *Growing the Capacity of our Council*. Providing an improved service and one that is value for money. Maximising the Service's resources and ensuring that resources and efforts are aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and Council Plan priorities.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process. The assessment recognises that charging for services can be difficult for individuals, families and businesses with low incomes, discretionary rates will be applied and monitored to ensure fair access to the service.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The establishment of the pest control service should realise an income to recover all costs incurred in the delivery of the service and contribute to the required efficient workforce management savings targets for the Environmental Health Service moving forward. The revised charges for the other Environmental Health Services ensures recovery of all reasonably incurred expenses.
- 6.2 Personnel – None.
- 6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 East Lothian Council Plan 2012 – 2017.

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DATE	13 th April 2016

Appendix A Environmental Health Service – Proposed New Charges

Environmental Health Service: Pest Control	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Rats & Mice Treatment – Domestic (Non-Council Tenant)	-	£60	£62	£64
Rats & Mice Treatment – Domestic (Non-Council Tenant Concession)	-	£30	£31	£32
Rats & Mice Treatment – Non-Domestic Premises (initial visit)	-	£60	£62	£64
Rats & Mice Treatment – Non-Domestic Premises (each subsequent visit) (per hour)	-	£40	£42	£44
Wasps Treatment – Domestic (Non-Council Tenant)	-	£40	£42	£44
Wasps Treatment – Domestic (Non-Council Tenant Concession)	-	£20	£21	£22
Wasps Treatment – Non-Domestic Premises (initial visit)	-	£40	£42	£44
Wasps Treatment – Non-Domestic Premises (each subsequent visit) (per hour)	-	£40	£42	£44
Other Pests* – Domestic (Non-Council Tenant)	-	£40	£42	£44
Other Pests* – Domestic (Non-Council Tenant Concession)	-	£20	£21	£22
Other Pests* – Non-Domestic Premises (initial visit)	-	£40	£42	£44
Other Pests* – Non-Domestic Premises (each subsequent visit) (per hour)	-	£40	£42	£44
Pest Management Contract	-	Quoted following detailed survey & assessment		

*Other pest species to be controlled by East Lothian Council Pest Control service:

Ants
 Bedbugs (from 2017-18)
 Cockroaches
 Feral pigeons (multiple visits may be necessary and charged accordingly)
 Fleas (from 2017-18)
 Moles
 Rabbits (multiple visits may be necessary and charged accordingly)
 Squirrels (within properties)
 Stored Product Insects

This list will be reviewed each year, with consideration of demand and respective capacity.

Environmental Health Service: Sampling	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Requested Sampling*	As above	£5.00 per Lab Unit + £40.00	£5.50 per Lab Unit + £41.00	£6.00 per Lab Unit + £42.00
Requested Commercial Sampling**	As above	£5.00 per Lab Unit + £20.00 per Officer hour + mileage	£5.50 per Lab Unit + £20.50 per Officer hour + mileage	£6.00 per Lab Unit + £21.00 per Officer hour + mileage
Commercial Sampling Programme	-	Quoted following detailed assessment based upon above formula		

*Domestic / Not for Profit entities: Requested Sampling Charges will be made at ELC set Laboratory Unit cost with an additional set fee (standardised 2 hours @ Officer Hour rate + £20 standardised mileage (based upon 45p per mile to cover from Haddington to sampling point, to Laboratory, back to Haddington)). Officer time will account for travelling, data input, administration and advice/guidance provided on receipt of Report. A standardised Officer time element is deemed reasonable and fair to account for properties in all parts of the Council area. An increase in one hour of Officer time will be attributed to every 5 samples from one sampling point to account for increased administration time. Edinburgh Scientific Services provides an annual price list which will be used to calculate costs dependent upon test / analysis suite required.

** Commercial entities: Requested Sampling Charges will be made at ELC set Laboratory Unit cost with an additional Officer Hour rate + mileage (45p per mile to cover from Haddington to sampling point, to Laboratory, back to Haddington). An increase in one hour of Officer time will be attributed to every 5 samples from one sampling point to account for increased administration time. Edinburgh Scientific Services provides an annual price list which will be used to calculate costs dependent upon test / analysis suite required.

Environmental Health Service: General	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Food Hygiene Section 50 Certificate	-	£100	£102	£104