



Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Thursday, 31 January 2019	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Environmental Health Update (Q3 2018/19)**

Report Author(s): **Tony Cawthorne (Acting Environmental
Health Team Leader)**

Purpose of Report:	To update Committee on the work undertaken by the Environmental Health Section during quarter 3 of 2018/19.
Report Summary:	This report provides information on the progress of routine work and projects within the current Project Plan relevant to Environmental Health. Matters for discussion expand on the themes and subjects previously reported to the Committee.
Recommendation(s):	That the contents of the report be noted.
Responsible Strategic Director, Head of Service and Officer Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Tony Cawthorne (Acting Environmental Health Team Leader) (0116) 257 2670 tony.cawthorne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Priorities:	Effective Service Provision (CP2) Balanced Economic Development (CP3)
Vision and Values:	Teamwork (V3) Customer Focus (V5)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources (CR1) Effective Utilisation of Assets/Buildings (CR5) Organisational/Transformational Change (CR8)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.

Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	None.

1. Public Space Protection Order

- 1.1 The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was formally brought into force on 24 September 2018 for a period of three years. New designated signage has been procured and erected in the designated areas across the Borough to highlight the key regulatory issues. The offences under the PSPO can be found on the [Council's website by following the link](#).
- 1.2 Environmental Health Officers continue to monitor the parks and open spaces across the Borough to which the PSPO applies in order to maintain a positive enforcement presence. No Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) have been issued under the new PSPO to date.

2. Abandoned Vehicles

- 2.1 The Council has received 21 notifications of abandoned vehicles this quarter. Following investigation by Officers, involving contacting registered keepers and informal notices placed on vehicles, of the 21 vehicles reported, only 1 case required formal Officer Intervention and firm enforcement, resulting in the vehicle being towed and destroyed.

3. Pest Control Statistics

3.1 Statistics

- 3.1.1 The table below compares the cases in quarter 3 for 2017 and 2018. A significant increase can be found in the treatment of wasp nests and mice and, in addition, the treatment of bedbugs brought in a significant amount under the revised charges of £600.

Pest Type	Q3 Cases 2017 (1/10/17 to 31/12/17)	Q3 Cases 2018 (1/10/18 to 31/12/18)
Rats	24	32
Mice	9	13
Fleas	4	2
Cockroaches	0	0
Wasps	17	25
Bedbugs	0	2
Squirrels	4	2

- 3.1.2 The Council's Pest Control Service has undertaken two further inspections to provide quotes for potential contracts in quarter 3 (i.e. one public house and one school). The Council currently undertakes three commercial contracts (i.e. one catering premise, one residential home and a hostel) which are progressing well.

- 3.1.3 Pest Control is also undertaken in the Blaby District Council (BDC) area and the 'Stronger Together Pest Control Service' is delivering a sewer treatment for BDC on behalf of Severn Trent Water.

3.2 **Forecast**

The 'Stronger Together Pest Control Service' continues to be promoted and advertised across the Borough in Letterbox and on the Council's website to both residents, businesses and further afield into the BDC area.

One comment from a Blaby resident who sought treatment after searching the web said "I wanted to go to a Council as I know I could trust them and knew I wouldn't be cheated".

A full financial appraisal across the Pest Control and Dog Warden Service will be presented to the next meeting of the Service Delivery Committee scheduled for 19 March 2019.

4. **Fly-Tipping and Littering**

- 4.1 Enforcement of fly-tipping cases is undergoing a positive transformation with the acquisition and use of portable 'wild-life cameras' to assist in crime detection and, to some extent, prevention. The cameras have been used in Magna Road and Bennet Way, Wigston.
- 4.2 During this last quarter, there have been 13 reports of fly-tipping and following investigation by Officers, no formal action was taken. There were 2 littering cases. No FPN's were issued in quarter 3.

5. **Food Hygiene Inspections**

- 5.1 The acquisition of additional resources to tackle the back-log of inspections has been identified and sourced to ensure that we are compliant with Food Standard Agency expectations by March 2019. Performance against projected outturns are regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure the timely completion of the current inspection programme.
- 5.2 To date, 131 inspections have been completed in quarter 1, quarter 2 and quarter 3. A further 90 will be completed by March 2019, keeping us well on course to achieving our given target. Food Safety Inspections carried out between October and December 2018 totalled 47 (which consisted of 18 A-D, 19 E and 10 new premises).
- 5.3 The results are summarised below and can also be found on the Council's website and a full list of premises within Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and their Food Hygiene Ratings (FHR) can be found on the [Food Standard Agency's webpage](#).
- 5.4 To date, the total number of food premises in the Food Hygiene Rating (FHR) Scheme is 320. This number fluctuates due to closures and new businesses.
- 5.5 Those with a Food Hygiene Rating of three or above are broadly compliant. The remaining 7 properties are receiving increased visits from Environmental Health Officers and formal action is being investigated in one case.

FHR	No. of Businesses attaining Score
5	258
4	34
3	21

2	3
1	3
0	1

6. Other Enforcement Matters

- 6.1 The Council was successful in obtaining an Order against a dog owner under the Dogs Act 1871 following a hearing at Leicester Magistrates' Court in early January 2019. The case arose from an incident reported to Environmental Health involving an unprovoked attack on a family Labrador by the dog owner's two dogs, a Japanese Akita and Belgian Shepherd, which occurred near to Beauchamp College on Ridgeway, Oadby back in August 2018.
- 6.2 The Order now requires the dog owner to keep his two dogs under proper control by ensuring that they are kept on leads and are muzzled at all times whilst in a public place. The dog owner was also ordered to pay the Council its full costs in bringing the case. The Environmental Health Team will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the Order is being complied with and will take further legal action against the dog owner if it is not.