



Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Thursday, 05 September 2019	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Environmental Health Update (Q1 2019/20)**

Report Author(s): **Tony Cawthorne (Regulatory Services Manager)**

Purpose of Report:	To update the Committee on the work undertaken by the Environmental Health Section during quarter 1 of 2019/20
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 content of the report and appendices be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Legal and Democracy) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Tony Cawthorne (Regulatory Services Manager) (0116) 257 2670 tony.cawthorne@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
Vision and Values:	Accountability (V1) 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 / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report.
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:	1. Reports from College Garth Kennels (Q1 2019/20)

1. Environmental Health Staffing

- 1.1 There continues to be pressures on the department which are being met through the use of an agency member of staff, allowing the team to maintain the current workload and meet service standards.

2. Dog Kennelling and Dog Warden Service

- 2.1 The Council's dog kennelling and dog warden service provided by College Garth Kennels undertake proactive patrols of parks and controlled spaces under the Council's Public Space Protection Order and areas identified by CSC. Stencilling of areas is also now being undertaken and the results of the inspections are referred to Environmental Health and CSC for further action as required. A copy of these reports is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 College Garth Kennels are also being used in the gathering of evidence regarding two dangerous dogs cases and the continued compliance with the Court orders.
- 2.3 There have been 2 dogs collected and returned to their owners.

3. Abandoned Vehicles

- 3.1 The Council has received 18 notifications of abandoned vehicles this quarter. Following investigation by Officers, involving contacting registered keepers and informal notices placed on vehicles, of the 18 vehicles reported, none required formal Officer Intervention.

4. Pest Control

- 4.1 The table below compares the cases in quarter 1 for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and shows the decline in activity due to the inclement weather affecting the rat population:

Pest Type	Q1 Cases 2018/19 (1/4/18 to 30/6/18)	Q1 Cases 2019/20 (1/4/19 to 30/6/19)
Rats	41	21
Mice	13	8
Fleas	2	0
Cockroaches	0	2
Wasps	26	7
Bedbugs	3	2
Squirrels	5	5

- 4.2 The Pest Control Service now operates 6 Contracts across the Borough including catering premises, residential homes and a hostel.

5. Fly-Tipping and Littering

5.1 During Q1, there were 11 reports of fly-tipping and following investigation none were actionable by Officers as no information relating to a perpetrators was found. Four cases related to the same incident on Southmeads Road which is a private road with Public Access and the alleged fly tips were storage of building waste from works being undertaken by Leicester University. Discussions have taken place with the University as at the point where the fly tip occurred it is their responsibility to remove the waste. There were 2 littering cases. 1 FPN was issued which was subsequently paid.

6. Food Hygiene Inspections

6.1 20 inspections were due, 8 were carried out, leaving 12 to carry forward into Q2.

6.2 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](#).

6.3 To date, the total number of food premises in the Food Hygiene Rating (FHR) Scheme is 350. This number fluctuates due to closures and new businesses.

6.4 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. One premise rated 0 has been voluntary closed and sold with the new owners refurbishing the venue.

FHR	No. of Businesses attaining Score
5	263
4	36
3	18
2	3
1	3
0	1

7. Other Enforcement Matters

7.1 The Department has investigated two illegal Houses in Multiple Occupation working in partnership with the Police and unearthing Modern Day slavery issues. Prosecution cases are being prepared.

7.2 The team have had two successful prosecutions:

7.2.1 A breach of a Court order requiring an owner to keep his dog muzzled in a public place. The following press statement was released by the Council:

A man whose dog attacked several dogs on multiple occasions has been ordered by a court to keep his dog under proper control.

On each occasion, the attacks which took place at Brocks Hill Country Park, Oadby in the late part of 2018 and early part of 2019 were all unprovoked.

Rajvinder Singh, 42, of Oadby Road, Wigston was ordered by Leicester Magistrates' Court to keep his dog, a Doberman pincher, muzzled at all times in a public place.

At the hearing on 12 June, the court heard that Mr Singh had failed to heed previous advice from the Council to keep his dog under proper control following the previous incidents.

A Council spokesperson said: "Mr Singh's unconcerned attitude that it was not necessary for him to properly control his dog, when it had in the past shown a predisposition of attacking other dogs, forced the Council to seek the court's intervention under the Dogs Act 1871.

"The Council will robustly investigate any report of a dangerous dog and take the necessary legal action to promote the highest standard of responsible dog ownership," the officer added.

Mr Singh was also ordered to pay the Council £200.00 in costs in bringing the case to court.

7.2.2 A breach of a Community Protection Notice to prevent noise from barking dogs. The following press statement was released by the Council;

A couple from South Wigston pleaded guilty to breaching the Community Protection Notice served by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council on them in respect of noise from barking dogs owned by them at their property.

Diane and Steve Wright of Landsdowne Grove, South Wigston were each served a community protection notice by the council after having received complaints from neighbours about noise from barking dogs at the property. Since the serving of the notice in September 2018 the Council received over 300 recordings from complainants.

In an attempt to address the complainants concerns the Council offered advice to the Wrights on anti-bark devices, training of the dogs, but these measures failed to resolve the situation.

As a result the Council was left with no option to but prosecute Mr and Mrs Wright under Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Oadby and Wigston Council's Environmental Health Officer said "Residents should be able to live free from excessive noise which has a detrimental effect on the quality of their life. The council will always robustly deal with anti-social behaviour wherever it occurs".

Mr and Mrs Wright, at Leicester Magistrates' Court on 12 June 2019, were each given a 12 month conditional discharge, ordered to pay £20 victim surcharge and £200 each towards the Council's costs bringing the prosecution.