

Overview of Pest Control Salford.

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Background

- The Pest Control Service operates across the City, and provides a service to local residents, schools, Social Registered Landlords and businesses;
- The service continued throughout the pandemic, ensuring business as usual for Salford residents;
- Salford CC reporting system shows a slight increase in requests for treatment in the last 3 years;

Background

- An online reporting system was introduced in May 2020, so residents could report rats seen in public places (RIPP);
- The service undertakes baiting of the public sewer on behalf of the water undertaker, United Utilities;
- At the request of Scrutiny Committee in 2020 discussions with United Utilities have taken place.

Legal Requirements

- The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 imposes a duty on local authorities to maintain its own land free of rats and mice and inspect the Local Authority area from time to time for the same purpose. In addition, it empowers local authorities to serve a notice on owners or occupiers of land infested by rats or mice requiring them to fulfil the occupier's duty to eradicate the rodent infestation. It does not however require a local authority to provide its own pest control service.

Trends

- Slight increase in all wards year on year, e.g. Barton, Winton, Eccles;
- However; requests for treatment has increased by almost double in Boothstown & Ellenbrook but numbers are still low;
- Due to ward changes in 2021, it is difficult to predict like for like demands on the service, from last year;
- The number of Rats in Public Places notifications have increased; however, the time period is not like for like, next years figures will give greater clarity to numbers.

Rats In Public Places (RIPP)

- The reporting system was introduced in May 2020;
- RIPP reports received from May to Dec in 2020 equate to 198 reports. To date (from Jan) 324 reports have been received for 2021. A more precise figure per annum will not be available until year end 2022;
- Whilst there is an increase in reports, there is evidence to suggest some reports are for private space rather than public realm;
- Notifications lead to enhanced analysis, which assists in targeting areas for programmed sewer baiting.

United Utilities

- £15000 is paid by UU for Salford CC to undertake sewer baiting on their behalf;
- The figure above has been paid for several years; and appears to be a similar figure to that paid to colleagues in GM;
- Discussion with UU is ongoing, regarding the sewer baiting programme; updated maps of the City, and the financial impact on the City Council etc;

Improvements in 2021

It was identified, that long serving employees reaching retirement age, exposed an issue with recruitment of experienced qualified officers; in order to future proof the service:

- The service used this opportunity to employ a local unemployed resident and provide him with training in pest control;
- To assist the younger generation in the City, the service has participated in the kickstart scheme, and currently has a Pest Control/Dog Control Assistant;

Improvements in 2021

- The assistant will be trained in the above role, as well as administrative training, which will provide him with transferrable skills for a future employer.
- The existing team, and new starters are now dual skilled to undertake pest duties, and dog warden roles, thus expanding the amount of work the team are able to achieve;
- The service now has all electric vehicles, promoting the council's green credentials, the vehicles are also kitted out for dual use, enabling the service to respond quickly to both pest and dog control work.

Improvements in 2021

- Looking for growth in the service, has seen a contract agreed and implemented with Trafford Council to collect their stray dogs;

Next Steps

Continued improvements to the service will see:

- The service move onto Civica CX which will aid in enhanced reporting of pest issues, mapping of problem areas, sewer baiting. This will also assist in monitoring the financial health of the service;
- Building on the success of the Trafford contract, the team are scoping out more commercial contracts;
- Employees from the team are due to receive animal licensing training, which will enable them to undertake licensing inspections of catteries, kennels and doggy day care, this service could be offered to other GM authorities, as an additional funding stream;

Next Steps

For information about Pest Control and access to the booking and RIPP system please use the link below

[Pests and infestations • Salford City Council](#)