



Neighbourhoods and Housing Environmental Health



Main responsibilities:

The Environmental Health Service exists to improve health, wellbeing, and the environment for all communities in Leeds. This is achieved by activities in respect of regeneration, environmental management, housing conditions, and public health.

Our contribution is by way of the following themes:

- Food related health issues; we address food safety in the city through a range of mechanisms including education, the inspection of food businesses, investigation of complaints about food, food premises and reports of food poisoning. We sample a range of foods and water supplies.
- Health, Safety and Welfare (predominantly at work); we provide health and safety courses and enforce health and safety legislation in the service sector through inspections. We investigate accidents and complaints about health, welfare and safety at work.
- Pollution control; we regulate premises likely to pollute the atmosphere, monitor air quality and old landfill sites, and investigate complaints about nuisance and pollution.
- Pest Control; we provide pest control services in homes and businesses.
- Animal Welfare; we enforce animal health legislation in respect of welfare of livestock at markets and during transportation.
- Housing; we assist landlords, private tenants and owner-occupiers with environmental health concerns. We give priority to meeting the needs of disabled, elderly and vulnerable people, and improving unfit housing and poor energy efficient housing.
- Environmental impacts on health and nuisance problems; we provide advice and information on environmental problems such as noise, air pollution, rubbish, and housing disrepair, all of which could affect people's health.

Budget highlights 2007/08:

The Leeds allocation of the funding for the work to introduce the restrictions on smoking in public is £335k in 2007/08. This will be used to conduct a range of publicity events and to enforce the Regulations following their introduction in July 2006.

The work on licensing House in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) commenced in 2006/07, with a bulk of licence applications received in that year. The income from licence fees will be used to fund the team administering the scheme, which will be kept under review throughout 07/08 to ensure there is no net cost to the Authority for this work.

The funding for a number of NRF supported services in Environmental Health will cease after 2007/08. It is expected however that the continuation of such services, including for example the Council's out of hours noise service, will be required.

The division will continue to support long term regeneration programmes, contributing to a spend on capital of £7.5m in 2007/08. The division relies in part on the timely completion of this work as an income to revenue streams.