

Types of issues we currently tackle and how

Littering – there is a zero tolerance policy across the city. Where an officer witnesses littering, the perpetrator is offered a fixed penalty notice in order to discharge their liability for prosecution. If the FPN is not paid, a case for prosecution is prepared. The team can accept statements from other Council and Police colleagues and members of the public.

Dog Fouling – again there is a zero tolerance city wide policy. Where an officer witnesses a dog fouling and its owner not clearing the mess up, the owner is offered a fixed penalty notice to discharge their liability for prosecution. If the FPN is not paid, a case for prosecution is prepared. Again statements can be taken from Council and Police colleagues and members of the public .

Flytipping

Reports of flytipping are investigated. Where there is evidence of who flytipped the waste, further action is taken with a view to prosecution. The land owner has legal responsibility for clearing the waste. A Legal Notice can be served to facilitate this where it is not done with an informal request. Landowners can be prosecuted for non compliance and in addition the Council can clear private land and recharge the owner.

Waste in Gardens

These complaints are addressed by writing to the occupiers, giving them 7 days to clear the waste. A further letter is sent if the waste is not cleared in this time frame giving another 7 days. If the waste remains after this time a Legal Notice is then served giving the occupier 28 days to remove it. If it remains after the Notice has expired, a fixed penalty notice is served. If the FPN is not paid a prosecution case is prepared. The Council also has the option of carrying out the works in default and recharging the occupier of the premises.

Please note that for ALMO properties the first 2 letters are sent by the ALMO, and it is referred to us if the waste remains after the time limit on the second letter for Notice to be served.

Also depending on the type of waste (eg, food waste, noxious matter), other Notices are available to be used to expedite the process.

Domestic and Commercial Waste Issues

Commercial entities require a waste contract, or evidence that they have legally disposed of their waste. A 'producer' Notice can be served on businesses to prove they have either a waste contract, or receipts to demonstrate their waste has been legally disposed of. If the 'producer' is not complied with, an FPN is issued. Where the FPN is not paid, a prosecution case is prepared.

We also have powers to serve a legal Notice requiring a business to obtain a commercial waste contract.

Illegal advertising

Where the perpetrator of illegal advertising can be identified, a legal Notice is served. Further incidents may then result in prosecution. Where the perpetrator cannot be identified staff remove the signs.

Highways Obstructions (e.g., overhanging vegetation)

Where a complaint is received relating to vegetation obstructing the highway. Letters are sent to the complainant and to the alleged perpetrator. The complainant is asked to get back in touch after 14 days if the problem is not resolved, as the alleged perp is asked to cut the vegetation back if it is obstruction the highway in this timescale. Sending the letter initially saves officer time visiting as we receive high volumes of complaints relating to overhanging vegetation. If the complainant calls back, an Officer visits and assesses if there is an obstruction. A further letter is sent giving 14 days. If this request is not complied with a Notice is served. After 28 days if the Notice has not been complied with the works are carried out in default and the owner is re-charged.

Drainage

Much of the drainage work currently undertaken is scheduled to move to Yorkshire Water. We will still be involved in issues relating to drains (ie the pipe which serves only one property). We have legal powers to serve Legal Notices, carry out works in default and recharge the owners.

Other Nuisance

We also investigate other nuisance issues, including light, smoke, filthy & verminous premises, empty and derelict properties etc.

Street Trading Consent Scheme

The team will work with Highways and Markets in relation to the above scheme. Investigating complaints about existing traders or possible illegal trading activity.

Dog Warden Service

The dog wardens deal with issues such as strays, dangerous dogs, and dog fouling, as well as enforcing the laws relating to the Dog Control Orders in Leeds.

Full Policies for dealing with the above matters are available on request.

Team Activity 1.4.11 – 30.6.2011 Inner North West

- Service Requests Received 280 non noise related

The main areas of work have been related to the issues below:

1. 62 Waste in gardens
2. 27 flytipping
3. 24 Drainage
4. 22 Overgrown vegetation
5. 21 Bins not returned
6. 18 Domestic waste
7. 15 Commercial waste
8. 14 Rodents

There was 1 prosecution for failing to deal with an accumulation on dog faeces.

The total number of complaints can be broken down by ward:-

Ward	EATs and H&EET Service Requests	Notices Served
Headingley	79	7
Hyde Park & Woodhouse	97	14
Kirkstall	55	3
Weetwood	49	11

Changeover was planned out with links to area management, university and close liaison with street cleaning and refuse colleagues. Early morning patrols took place to tackle and deter bag slashers.

The team has attended various community events supporting the Hyde Park neighbourhood plan consultation. With partners in the police and area management, the team assisted the completion of an environmental and perceptions audit of the area.

The team has also assisted the police on 2 operations in the area.