



## **Commitment to Public Health.**

**In a world of recession and council cutbacks it is refreshing to find that some Local Authorities have not lost touch with the original concept of public health.**

**Bristol City Council is one of these progressive authorities which still have the public health of the constituents as a priority and in these difficult times still manage to increase budgetary needs in order to meet demand.**

Within the questionnaire managers were asked for comments, we feel Bristol Cities return deserves printing in full.

### **Comments for National Rodent Survey**

Bristol City Council's pest control service received a large increase in complaints about rats during 2007/08.

Our statistics have risen from 3813 in 06/07 to 4924 in 07/08 an overall increase of 29% !!!

Managers recognised the significant increases early on and submitted a report to Councillors explaining the issues. Councillors were extremely supportive and through the budget process agreed to increased funding to provide for two additional pest control officers from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

Wessex Water PLC also continues to support a comprehensive rat sewer-baiting programme across the city, which adds to the continuing treatments in combating rat activity in sewers.

Richard Bevan, Pest Control Services Manager.

**Further evidence that public health is not being put at risk all over the UK came in the way of a statement by Belfast City Council and was included in the October edition of Today's Technician 2008.**

## **Belfast show commitment to Public Health**

In an unprecedented move, Belfast City Council has scrapped its charge for dealing with public health pests and has introduced a free service to all domestic householders.

This came into effect on June 1, 2008, and the free service covers the following pests: rats, mice, fleas, flies, bedbugs and cockroaches.

During a major review of how they provided the vital service of pest control, the council's pest control manager recommended that it should be provided free of charge to the public for a number of reasons:

- shows commitment to the health and well-being of the people of Belfast
- demonstrates a more holistic approach to public health
- helps protect the people of Belfast
- reduction in rats
- ratepayers getting value for money
- improved customer expectations
- delivery of the service with the minimum of bureaucracy and waste
- utilising current resources in a professionally sound and continuously improving manner
- supports corporate priorities and objectives
- will make Belfast a healthier city
- will create a safer environment for people to work, visit and live in
- promotion of good relations/equality of service provision
- delivering best service
- improving quality of life, now and for future generations
- working for and with all the citizens of Belfast
- potential for greater economic prosperity by improving the environment and public health
- reduction on a negative effect of the environment
- opportunity for improving the local environment
- making Belfast better
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Councillor Cathal Mullaghan, chairman of Belfast City Council's Health and Environmental Services Committee, said: "We're very

pleased to be able to make this vital service cost-free to our ratepayers and it demonstrates the council's commitment to improving public health."

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