



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 1st 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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