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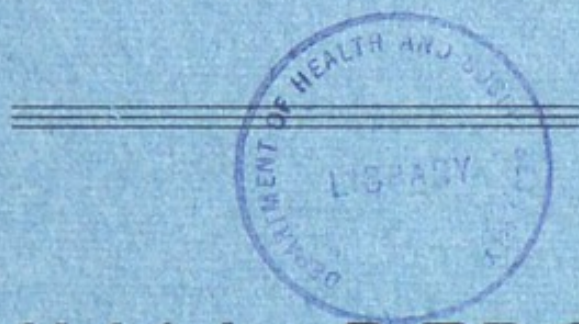
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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

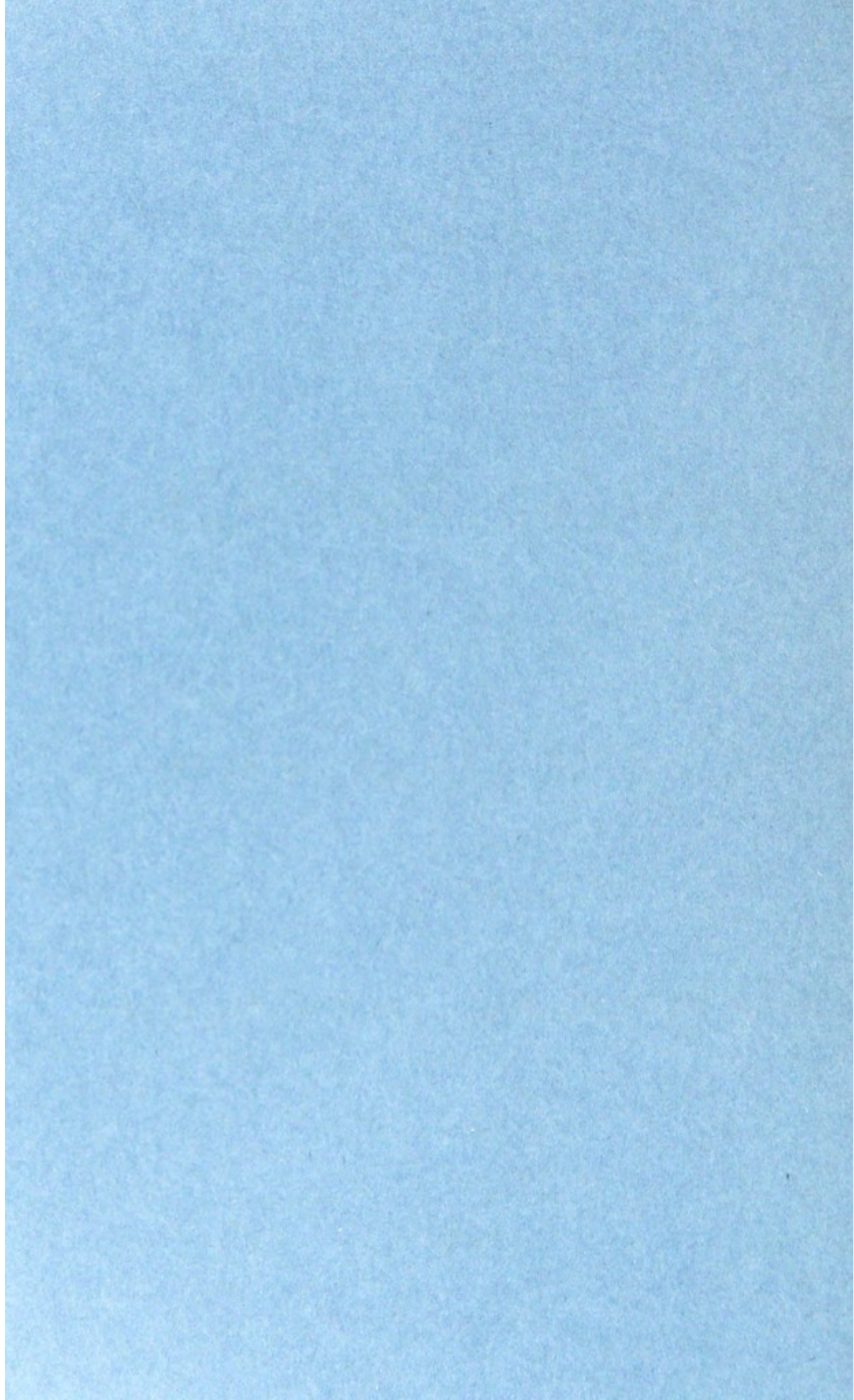
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1968



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1968

Medical Officer of Health :

J. H. McP. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors :

MR. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

MR. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.
R.S.H. Smoke Inspectors Diploma.

MR. RONALD DUNNE, R.S.H. Diploma of Public Health Inspectors

Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

MR. FRANK BURROWS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1968

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ashton-in-Makerfield

Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the 93rd Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1968.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

Introduction

The district is bounded by the Urban Districts of Abram, Billinge, Golborne and Haydock and the County Boroughs of Wigan and St. Helens.

Geologically the area is of coal and red sandstone and is approximately 6,265 acres.

Social Conditions

The population at the 1961 census was 19,260 and is now 25,070 (mid-1968), the density of population being slightly more than 4 per acre. Coal mining has practically ceased but some light industry has moved into the district. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon and iron and steel manufacture give employment to many of the population but there is still a need for additional industry to be introduced into the area.

The rateable value of property in the Urban District is £655,969 and a penny Rate yields £2,566.

The District is part of No. 8 Division of the Lancashire County Council who organise Child Welfare, Ante-Natal and School Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics

No. of Sessions.....	102		
No. of Individual Children attended and born in	1968	1967	1966
	330	365	330
No. of attendances at ages	0 -	1 -	2-4 incl.
	4,424	694	306

Ante-Natal Clinics

No. of Sessions	43
No. of Individual Women attending.....	104
No. of Attendances	199

Post-Natal Clinics

No. of Sessions	11
No. of Individual Women attending.....	44
No. of Attendances	46

Sanitary Circumstances

The Makerfield Water Board supervise the distribution of water, obtained from boreholes at the Board's Lightshaw works, together with water purchased from Liverpool Corporation. The Board reported the taking of 100 water samples in the district and found them all to be bacteriologically satisfactory. No chemical reports have been received.

The number of houses now on the water-carriage disposal system is 8,652. House refuse is collected in approximately 9,507 bins and disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population 25,070

Comparability factors: Births 0·90
Deaths 1·26

	Male	Female
Live Births		
Legitimate	297	277
Illegitimate	12	4
Total	309	281
Still Births		
Legitimate	3	7
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	3	7
Deaths—infants under 1 year of age		
Legitimate	7	4
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	7	4
Deaths—infants under four weeks of age		
Legitimate	6	4
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	6	4
Deaths—infants under one week of age		
Legitimate	5	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	5	2
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population		
Total (all forms)		
Crude rate	10·5	
Adjusted rate	13·2	
Respiratory T.B.....	0·08	
Malignant neoplasms, etc.	1·32	
Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimated population		
Crude rate	23·5	
Adjusted rate	21·2	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	17	
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	19	
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	17	
Early neo-natal mortality rates per 1,000 live births	12	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	28	

Cause of Death	Sex	Age in years										Total All ages		
		4 weeks and under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	and over			
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases.....	M	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Leukæmia	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.....	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diabetes Mellitus	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Anæmias	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.....	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hypertensive Disease	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ischæmic Heart Disease	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Forms of Heart Disease.....	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	F	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Infectious Disease

There was no epidemic disease during the year.

	<i>Cases notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	22
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	187
Tuberculosis—respiratory ...	2
Tuberculosis other	3
Infective Jaundice	2

Immunisations and Vaccinations

Children protected against :—

	<i>Primary</i>		<i>Re-inforcement</i>	
	0-4	5-15	0-4	5-15
Diphtheria	461	47	331	1,023
Whooping Cough	460	11	325	157
Tetanus	461	49	331	1,006
Poliomyelitis	472	28	63	444
Smallpox Vaccination ...	189	4	1	5
Measles... ..	228	225	Nil	Nil

I wish to express my appreciation for the assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. Burrows, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his unflinching support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to Members of the Council my appreciation for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. MCP. ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD,

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashton-in-Makerfield
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report giving details of the work carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department during 1968.

There has again been a considerable increase in the various duties requiring attention due to new legislation and a continued increase in the population of the district.

The number of new dwellings erected was 261, of which 249 were constructed by private development and 12 by the local authority. In addition, 25 flatlets were erected, and occupied by aged persons. These flatlets, which are self-contained, are of the ground and first-floor type with communal rooms, laundry, drying-room, etc., and a resident full-time warden. This type of accommodation is a boon to the elderly and mainly lonely person, and the improvement in the disposition of many of the tenants has been remarkable, due no doubt, to the increased feeling of security. Although as stated only 12 dwellings had been completed by the Council at the end of the year, a total of 149 units of accommodation are to be completed in this phase of building. The estimated population increase at mid-year was 1,720 bringing the total population to 25,070.

I am pleased to report that it has been possible to give more attention to various matters this year by reason of the fact that the staff have remained unchanged and have given loyal and unstinted service to the Council.

It will be noticed in the section dealing with nuisances dealt with that there was a considerable increase in the number of choked and defective drains dealt with. This is due to the introduction of a drain cleansing service which became necessary because of builders being reluctant to undertake this type of work. This is a valuable service and has reduced considerably the period of time between choked drains being notified and the nuisance being abated.

There was an increase in the number of applications received for standard grants, but there is still a reluctance by landlords and agents to make applications to improve the standard of tenanted properties.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Total Inspections made for all purposes	5,786
No. of premises visited.....	3,593
Nuisances discovered	1,910
Nuisances abated	1,874
Visits re infectious disease	23
Re-visits re infectious disease	17
Visits to factories	190
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	337
Visits to Food Delivery Vehicles	46
Food Factory.....	102
Visits to dairies	28
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	276
Notices served (Preliminary)	764
Notices served (Statutory)	83
Legal Proceedings	2
Court Abatement Orders made	2
Letters sent	1,450

Description of Nuisances dealt with

Defective and damp walls	197
roofs	180
eaves-gutters and rain-water pipes	173
floors	32
sinks	5
wastepipes	17
plasterwork	187
windows	191
doors and frames.....	55
staircases	5
chimneys and stacks	34
ventilating shafts.....	4
paving in yards and passages	11
Animals and poultry improperly kept	2
Defective w.c. cisterns	37
w.c. basins	12
w.c. supply pipes	46
w.c. structures.....	28
Choked or defective drains and drainage systems	305
Water under floors	20
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	74
Foul Odours	17
Filthy or verminous premises	106
Insufficient water supplies	11
Insufficient lighting	12
Noise Nuisances	15
Clean Air Act Infringements	31
Abandoned vehicles	23
Miscellaneous	80
	<hr/>
	1,910
	<hr/>

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

Thirty-one families involving 92 persons were rehoused by the Council from houses on which either Demolition or Closing Orders had been made. Twenty-two houses were demolished and three closed and 19 houses were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of being repaired at reasonable expense.

The detailed inspection of 41 houses was commenced with a view to including them in a proposed clearance area.

Housing Statistics

1. Number of dwellings erected during the year :—

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i) By the local authority	Nil	12	25
(ii) By other local authorities... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	162	87	Nil

2. Number of Council-owned dwellings at end of the year 1,848

3. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—

	<i>Houses</i>
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60	392
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	994
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	144
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made. (At any time).....	73
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made.....	217

4. Houses demolished :—

In Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	22	73	27
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in unfitness Orders	—	—	—

5. Unfit Houses Closed :—

	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	3	19	4
(2) Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957.....	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.....	—	—	—

6. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	61	Nil
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	83	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957)

Position at end of year :—

(1) Retained for temporary accommodation	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
(a) Under Section 48	—	—
(b) Under Section 17 (2).....	—	—
(c) Under Section 46	—	—
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	—	—

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—

Number of houses

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year

—

9. Housing Act 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958—
Improvement grants, etc.

Action during year :—

	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority.....	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—
(e) Work completed.....	—	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	—	—
(g) Any other action under the Acts: Nil		

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants :—

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard	81
(b) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard	Nil
(c) Total applications approved by local authority for improvements to :	
(i) full standard	81
(ii) reduced standard	Nil
(d) Work completed.....	65

The total number of dwellings improved since 1959 is 467.

The amenities provided were :—

Fixed baths.....	61
Showers	2
Wash Hand basins.....	60
Hot Water supply	61
Water Closets within dwellings	63
Food Stores.....	60

Rent Act, 1957

There were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair or any undertakings to carry out repairs during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

All premises where food is prepared, stored and sold were regularly inspected to maintain the high standard required to safeguard the public against the possible ill effects of consuming contaminated food.

In addition, there was no relaxation in the inspection and supervision of vehicles used by mobile traders in purveying fish, fruit, vegetables and ice cream.

Again it was necessary to take action against the owners of vehicles delivering bread and confectionery because of neglect in keeping these vehicles clean. It was found that there is a continual change in the vehicles and personnel used in this type of business and a lack of supervision by the employer. Although good standards were achieved after complaint, it has not been possible to relax the supervision of these vehicles.

The market stalls have been kept in a reasonable condition, but I regret that another year has passed and the toilet and washing facilities are not yet erected. It is regrettable that there should be such a delay in providing these most essential amenities to enable the market food traders to attend to their personal hygiene.

One hundred and two visits were made to the food factory and I am pleased to report that a very high standard of food hygiene was maintained.

Type of Business	<i>No.</i>
General Grocers and provision dealers	95
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	14
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.).....	7
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	17
Bakers and/or confectioners.....	10
Fried Fish shops	16
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.....	29
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafés, snack bars and similar catering establishments	78
Others.....	5

The following table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Acts, 1938 and 1968.

Sale of Ice Cream.....	61
Manufacturers of Cooked Meat and Sausages	15
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	3
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles.....	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles.....	8

Food Condemned

356½ lbs. Ham	1 tin Beefburgers
13 tins Pears	10 tins Oranges
20 tins Grapefruit	5 tins Evaporated Milk
10 tins Peaches	2 tins Ox Tongue
2 tins Apricots	3 tins Red Salmon
31 tins Peas	34 lbs. Pork
3 tins Steak	13 tins Dairy Cream
21 tins Tomatoes	1 tin Strawberries
18 tins Puddings	2 jars Potted Beef
2 tins Soup	9 tins Stewed Steak
1 tin Cream	3 tins Lunch Tongue
16 tins Blackcurrants	2 tins Apples and Blackberries
1 tin Fruit Cocktail	1 tin Ham
4 tins Pork and Ham	1 tin Tomato Juice
3 tins Corned Beef	1 tin Orange Juice
1 tin Boiled Ham	50 packets Peanuts and Raisins
5 tins Carrots	64 packets Peanuts
80 lbs. Lambs' Liver	1 tin Minced Beef
3 tins Luncheon Meat	1 tin Scotch Broth
3 tins Steak and Kidney Pudding	1 tin Chicken Fillets
8 tins Fruit Salad	1 tin Steak Pie
1 tin Chicken Soup	20 lbs. Beef
17 tins Beans	13½ lbs. Lamb
1 tin Baby Food	5 packets Cheese Slices
11 lbs. Corned Beef	1½ lbs. Butter
18 tins New Potatoes	1 tin Red Plums
5 tins Pineapple Cubes	1 packet Almonds
	1 tin Stew

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are six dairy farms producing milk within the district in addition to seven registered dairies.

Visits have been paid to all these premises in addition to shops from which sterilised milk is sold. The results of milk samples taken are as follows :—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis) ...	23
Negative	20
Positive	Nil
Void.....	3
Phosphatase Test	29
Satisfactory.....	29
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	29
Satisfactory.....	29
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	11
Satisfactory.....	10
Unsatisfactory	1

Brucellosis

RING TEST	
Negative	89
Positive	13
CULTURE TEST	
Negative	10
Positive	3
BIOLOGICAL TEST	
Negative	Nil
Positive	1

It is regrettable that when a positive culture result is received, a farmer is allowed to sell the affected cow to any other cow-keeper. This latter person is free to sell infected milk until further samples are taken and the process repeated. The Government should take immediate steps to eradicate all affected cows no matter what costs are involved because many people still continue to consume raw milk and can be infected by Brucellosis.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order is operative in the Urban District and only designated milk may be sold in sealed bottles or containers.

Ice Cream

There are 61 premises registered under Sections 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act 1938 for the sale of ice cream.

There is one manufacturer of heat-treated ice cream in the district and his premises are inspected regularly. These premises are modern and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained both in the buildings and with the fleet of vehicles which operates over a large area in Lancashire. Seventy-eight samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows:—

	Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade I	38	34
Provisional Grade II.....	4	2
Provisional Grade III	Nil	Nil
Provisional Grade IV	Nil	Nil

Ice Lollies

Twenty-five lolly samples were taken for bacteriological test, the results being as follows :

24 samples	Satisfactory
1 sample.....	Unsatisfactory

Licensed Premises

There has been a further increase in the number of premises where improvements to the sanitary accommodation and general structure have been completed. This is beneficial to the customers, who now demand pleasant surroundings during their leisure hours. Generally, the clubs have been brought up to a high standard and the owners of public houses realize that, in order to attract custom, they must also improve their premises.

There are 29 public houses, eight out-door licences and 17 clubs within the district and the necessary inspections were made during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Only one shop is licensed for the keeping and sale of pets. It is well maintained, the staff being competent, and there has been no need for any action other than routine visits.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts

There has been full compliance with all the Acts and Regulations by the owners of petrol stations and all new installations were strictly supervised and tanks and delivery pipes subjected to a 10-lb. pressure test for the requisite length of time. There are 40 premises licensed for the storage of petrol and fees to the amount of £35 5s. 0d. were received during the year.

Public Cleansing

The collection of household and trade refuse was continued during the year on a weekly basis except for the annual holiday.

I am pleased to state that a very high standard was maintained and there was little cause for complaint. It must be remembered that this service is of an arduous nature and is maintained by loyal employees during all varieties of weather conditions.

The service has been extended by the purchase of a box type tipping van for the collection of bulky refuse and during the year 343 premises were cleared of this type of refuse. Although it had not been possible by the end of the year to provide sites for the deposit of household furniture and other bulky refuse, efforts were still being made to comply with the requirements of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967.

On the 27th July, 1968, it became obligatory for local authorities to remove abandoned motor vehicles and this placed a considerable burden on the Public Health Department staff. In order to trace the owners of these vehicles, considerable time is spent in form completion and enquiries, often to no avail because of the neglect of owners to notify changes of ownership to the motor vehicle tax departments.

An old side-loading refuse collection vehicle was dispensed with and a new 25 cubic yard Karrier Compression loading vehicle was purchased. Owing to the rapid change in the type of refuse now being produced it is necessary for vehicle manufacturers to improve the type of vehicles to cope with this problem.

The vehicles now in use by the department are as follows:—

Two 18 cubic yard capacity, dual tip rear loading Karriers.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Karrier compression loader.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Harrison Gibson compression loader (second-hand).

One 25 cubic yard capacity Karrier compression loader.

One Box Type Salvage Van.

One Box Type Tipping Van for the collection of bulky refuse.

One Bray 530 Mechanical Shovel.

There are 25 employees engaged in all aspects of refuse collection and disposal.

The mechanical shovel purchased in 1967 has proved invaluable in maintaining a high standard of tip control. The fire problem has been almost eliminated but unauthorised persons still frequent the tip after working hours and disturb deposited and covered refuse to obtain articles of value. The Carr Mill tip still has many years' life but owing to the increased population of the district the space available is being rapidly reduced.

Discussions were held during the year with neighbouring authorities in connection with proposed incineration schemes and in my opinion regional schemes of this nature will be a necessity in a few years' time.

Dustbin Provision Scheme

The Municipal Dustbin Scheme is operated under the provisions of Section 75/3 of the Public Health Act, 1936. 269 bins were delivered to new dwellings, whilst 349 were issued to replace defective bins at other premises.

Statistics

Number of pail closets at end of 1967 (approximately)		67
Less number converted	1	
Less number demolished	5	6
	—	—
Total number of pail closets at end of 1968		61
Number of water closets at end of 1967 (approximately) including troughs and waste-water.....		9,463
Number of conversions.....		1
Number of fresh-water closets at new dwellings ...		270
Number of extra water closets erected		69
		—
		9,803
Number of water closets demolished		20
		—
Number of water closets at end of 1968		9,783
Number of waste-water closets included above		12
		—
Number of movable dustbins at end of 1967 (approx.)		9,242
Number of new dwellings		286
Bins provided at other premises.....		4
		—
		9,532
Number of bins at properties demolished and closed ...		25
		—
Number of movable ashbins at 31st December, 1968...		9,507
		—

Salvage of Waste Paper

The amount of waste paper collected and disposed of was 356 tons 15 cwts. 1 qr. The income from the sale amounted to £3,235 8s. 9d.

Trade Refuse

A charge of 6d. per bin per week is made for the collection of refuse from trade premises. The sum of £191 2s. 3d. was received for this service.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1961

Number of factories on register : 138

		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>
With mechanical power	111	161	—
Without mechanical power	18	18	—
Other premises (not outworkers)...	9	11	—
	138	190	—

Defects Found

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Insufficient and unsuitable closet accommodation	7	7
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Inadequate ventilation	2	2
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2
	Totals 12	12

Registered Premises

Cafés and Snack Bars	5
Bakers and confectioners	10
Plumbers	11
Builders	16
Motor and cycle repairers	23
Smiths	2
Painters	9
Clothing manufacturers	2
Corrugated Board Containers	1
Wholesale Warehouses	1
Lock and hinge manufacturers	2
Laundries	3
Printers	1
Dental mechanics	1
Cabinet makers and Upholsterers... ..	3
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice cream manufacturers	1
Sausage makers	8
Scrap metal dealers	3
Cattle Food Preparation	1
Demolition contractors	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe repairers	3
Gas holders	1
Electricians	10
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Saw mills	7
Food Factory	1
General Engineering	8

140

Section 110

There were only three outworkers resident in the district employed by a firm carrying on business outside this area.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil

Smoke Abatement—Clean Air Act, 1956

Although the Council decided not to make any provision in the rate estimates to allow for work to proceed towards the making of a Smoke Control Order it was agreed later in the year that one part of the district be surveyed for this purpose. All the dwellings were visited and the cost of the adaptation of the fireplaces was estimated. No doubt action will be taken during 1969 with the object of making a Smoke Control Order operative during 1970.

It was found during the survey that householders have continued to replace coal fired grates with approved smokeless fuel appliances. I am still of the opinion that grants should be paid to persons installing these smokeless appliances even though their dwellings are not within a Smoke Control Area.

There has been full co-operation with the management of factories to prevent any contraventions of the Clean Air Act.

The old colliery spoilbanks still require to be supervised as on many occasions there have been outbreaks of fire giving rise to the emission of noxious fumes. There was disturbance of the disused spoilbank in Bryn Road which gave rise to spontaneous combustion, resulting in considerable nuisance in the area.

The spoil was eventually removed by the contractors engaged by the Lancashire County Council as part of the Bryn Road (Long Lane) land reclamation scheme.

Notices were received in respect of the installation of furnaces having a heating capacity of more than 55,000 British Thermal Units per hour as required by Section 3 of the Act.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Movable Dwellings

There are no licensed camping sites within the Urban District but some caravan dwellers entered the area and stayed for short periods. There was no cause for serious complaint but in every instance discarded wearing apparel, bedding and metal articles of no value had to be removed when the caravans vacated the sites.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

I am pleased to report that there was a considerable reduction in the number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified during the year. Twenty-three houses were disinfected and visits were made following notification of certain infectious diseases. In order to try to prevent the spread of infection, library books from infected houses are disinfected before being re-issued and books of small value are destroyed with the agreement of the Librarian.

Disinfestation

The number and type of infestation dealt with was as follows:—

Council houses	54	Other houses	115
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The houses were treated for the following infestations:—

Cockroaches	26	Ants	55
Bugs	3	Bees	5
Flies	21	Beetles	4
Earwigs	1	Spiders	2
Wood Lice.....	1	Wasps	6
Silverfish	5	Crickets	1
Fleas	2		

All houses are inspected prior to the occupants being rehoused in Council dwellings and disinfestation is carried out as necessary.

Rodent Control

There was a reduction in the total number of complaints received regarding infestations by mice but the number of infestations by rats increased considerably. There does not appear to be any rational explanation for this trend except that new building disturbs the rats which eventually find their way into new dwellings. This could be avoided if the builders took the simple precaution of securing apertures immediately after gas pipes, electric cables, and other services had been installed.

The sewer treatments were carried out efficiently by the operators and there was a considerable reduction in the number of takes recorded.

Domestic premises are treated free of charge but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises.

The annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is as follows:—

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	9,642	54
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	477	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	304	—
(ii) Mice	128	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	61	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	35	—
(ii) Mice	24	—

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Visits were made to all agricultural units in the area to ensure that the provisions of the Act were still being observed. All the farms are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences and water supplies for the needs of seasonal and full-time farm workers.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

It was again possible to increase the number of inspections made to registered premises during the year. The Act was introduced to ensure that the health of persons employed in offices, shops, warehouses, catering establishments and canteens is not impaired due to unsuitable premises and working conditions.

Employers are required to notify all accidents to employees if, as a result of the accident, the employee is absent from work for more than three days. Three such accidents were reported and each was investigated.

The following information is taken from the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour in accordance with the provisions of Section 60 of the Act.

Class of Work Place	No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of persons in such premises
Offices	19	82
Retail shops.....	77	261
Wholesale shops, warehouses.....	1	9
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	15	63
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil
Total	112	
Males :	151	Females : 264

Number of general inspections carried out	67
Number of visits of all kinds made	128
Number of notices served re contraventions ...	16
Number of exemptions granted.....	Nil
Number of prosecutions.....	Nil
Number of accidents reported	3

Public Conveniences

Each year I have to refer to the malicious damage to the fixtures and fittings at the two main public conveniences and to the fouling of walls and floors. There was no change in these conditions during 1968 and it has now been necessary to cease to renew broken windows except where absolutely necessary, to reduce cost of repairs to the minimum. The attendants have carried out their duties efficiently but of course, much of their effort is wasted.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Fifteen complaints were received of alleged noise nuisances, and all were investigated. Some were of a domestic character involving neighbours' disputes and although these are difficult to deal with, favourable results were obtained in most cases.

The other complaints were of an industrial character and were dealt with as quickly as practicable. In November a sound level meter was purchased and readings were taken both inside and outside the factories concerned. The use of this instrument will give statistics that can be used to emphasize the need for remedial action to be taken if the noise levels are above the allowable limits.

Hairdressers and Barbers

The gradual improvement over the last few years in the standards of hygiene in hairdressers' premises and equipment due to the enforcement of byelaws which were made in December, 1962, has been continued. There are 25 such establishments in the district and 47 visits were made during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964—Section 6

This section of the Act requires dealers in scrap metal and marine store dealers to register with the local authority in whose district their premises are situated. Their trading records must be made available for inspection by the Council's authorised officers and visits have been made to the dealers for this purpose.

There is one dealer and two itinerant collectors registered with the Council and the police authorities are kept informed of any new registrations.

Food and Drugs Act

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following details of samples taken by County Sampling Officers. The County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling of food and drugs within the district.

A total of 104 samples was obtained comprising 59 milks (of which six were Channel Islands milk) and 45 others as follows:—

1 Butter	1 Cornflour
2 Cooked Meat	1 Borax
1 Flour Confectionery	2 Epsom Salt
2 Oil of Eucalyptus	1 Sterilized Cream
2 Headache Tablets	2 Salad Cream
1 Sausage Rolls (frozen)	2 Ground Mixed Spice
1 Meat and Chicory Essence, liquid, sweetened	1 Ground Nutmeg
2 Cocoa	2 Margarine
1 Camphorated Oil B.P.	2 Meat, canned
1 Camphorated Oil	1 Breakfast Cereal
2 Ice Cream	1 Fish Spread
2 Choc Ices	1 Minced Chicken in Jelly (jar)
3 Ice Lollies	1 Sugar
3 Table Jelly	1 Smoked Salmon Mayonnaise
1 Tapioca	1 Meat & Vegetable Pie (frozen)
	1 Borax B.P.

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Ice Lollies	Consisted of a plain orange flavoured lolly but bore a label intended for a more elaborate product. Contained benzoic acid without declaration. Did not contain milk despite reference on label.	Manufacturer communicated with.

In conclusion I must express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation during the year, to the Medical Officer of Health and to the staff of the Public Health Department for ready assistance given at all times, and to all other colleagues in the Council's service for help and friendly co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

LANE & CO.

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

