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Longbenton
Urban District Council

County of Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR

1967

of

A. W. HAY

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.


Medical Officer of Health

and

R. W. THIRKELL

M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



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Longbenton Urban District Council

1. PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor W. M. Means.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. F. Fawcett.

Councillors: Beaumont, Mrs. Cummings, J. Fawcett, Hogg, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Jeffries, Kirby, Love, Meek, Mitchell, Murray, Perkins, Mrs. Smailes, Mrs. Stoker, Veale and Wardle.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Officer</i>			<i>Qualifications</i>
Medical Officer of Health...	ARTHUR W. HAY	M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	R. W. THIRKELL	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Smoke Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.H., Hon. Diploma Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	W. R. M. GRAY	Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Smoke Inspector's Cert.
Additional Public Health Inspector	B. HALL	M.A.P.H.I. Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., Smoke Inspector's Cert.
Pupil Public Health Inspector	A. WHITWELL	
Cleansing Foreman	A. G. LISTER	
Rodent Operator	N. ATKINSON	
Senior Clerk	MRS S. A. J. BRIDON	
Clerk	MISS N. BROWN	

3. LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ARTHUR W. HAY

for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of the
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the district during the year ended the 31st December, 1967.

The population has risen from 48,020 to 48,480 mainly because of the expansion which is taking place in Killingworth New Town. The birth rate fell during the year (for the second year running) and the number of births notified were only 584 as compared with 654 last year. Although there was this drop in the total number of births, the number of illegitimate births has risen and the numbers in the current year represent 6.51% of the total live births compared with 3.67% in the previous year.

The death rate remains about the same as last year, and the main causes of death are once again heart disease and cancer. The number of deaths from coronary heart disease increased from 97 to 107 and seems to be affecting younger age groups. During the year 20 persons died of coronary disease between the ages of 45 and 55. Last year there were only 7 persons dying of coronary heart disease in this age group. Cancer of the lung was responsible for 29 deaths, half of these persons being under retiring age. The deaths from cancer of the lung mainly occurred among males (26 deaths compared with only 3 in females). I would once again mention the association of cancer of the lung with excessive cigarette smoking.

I am pleased to report that there were no maternal deaths in association with child-birth. This has been a feature of my reports for several years.

The number of infectious diseases reported were less than last year—312 compared with 502—and most of those reported (260) were caused by measles. With the introduction of measles vaccination it is hoped that these numbers will be substantially reduced in the next few years. I am pleased to report that there were none of the serious epidemic diseases such as smallpox, typhoid, paratyphoid, poliomyelitis or diphtheria. Immunisation against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continues to be given at the Child Welfare Clinics and it is important that mothers ensure that their children are immunised to prevent the recurrence of any of these illnesses.

Measurements of atmospheric pollution have been made continuously by the Health Department throughout the year and the readings indicate that smoke from domestic chimneys is responsible for the pollution occurring in the district. In the winter months harmful amounts of both smoke and sulphur dioxide are present in the air. This can be eradicated by the introduction of Smoke Control Areas.

The Public Health Inspectors have spent much time during the year in housing inspections and surveys in an endeavour to get rid of the remaining sub-standard properties in the area. I am sure that the Council will continue to give every assistance to this work until the slum clearance programme is completed.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Health Department Staff, particularly the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the assistance and co-operation given throughout the year, and I would also like to thank the Members of the Council and the Health Committee for their continued interest and support in all matters aimed at improving the public health of the community.

I remain, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR WILLIAM HAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

Situated in the County of Northumberland, the Longbenton Urban District covers an area of 6,786 acres, and adjoins the north-eastern boundary of the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne. The Urban District is governed by a Council consisting of 24 members (Chairman and Vice-Chairman and 22 Councillors) it includes the following areas: Benton, Forest Hall, Palmersville, Killingworth, Benton Square, Holystone, West Allotment, West Moor, Burradon, Annitsford, Dudley, Seaton Burn, Fordley, Wideopen and part of Hazlerigg.

The present Urban District came into being on 1st April, 1935, when there was added to the original Urban District what had been the former Urban District of Weetslade. The original Urban District of Longbenton was first constituted in 1912 by the County of Northumberland Confirmation Order, 1912, the old Weetslade Urban District being first constituted in 1894. Before these dates both authorities were parts of the Rural District of Tynemouth, which is no longer in existence.

The Urban District is situated approximately five miles north-east of Newcastle upon Tyne and is rapidly becoming a dormitory for the workers and business people of that city, and it is approximately the same distance away from the coast at Whitley Bay. In general, the land is mainly flat from west to east, rising gently from Forest Hall, north of the district, and is well-wooded.

Though one of the main industries is coal mining many business concerns are moving into the Urban District being tempted by the attractive facilities offered at Killingworth New Town and Benton Square Industrial Site. The headquarters of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance are situated on the outer fringe of the Urban District's southern boundary. The buildings cover an area of approximately 63 acres and were opened in October, 1946. Thousands of men and women are employed here in the supervision of Health Insurance over the whole country, the local administration of which is carried out through 800 offices.

It will be seen that, it is largely an industrial and residential area, which has been continually growing over the years, the climate is an agreeable one and the district has much to offer it, residents. The existence of the farmlands within the area assists of course, in freshening the air, and the Council itself is in the vanguard of the forces pledged to maintain the health of the residents.

5. STATISTICS.

General

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,786
Number of Inhabited Houses:—								
Council	4,178,	other	11,289	...	...	...	...	15,467
Number of Other Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,764
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,338,440
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£5,615

Vital

<i>Population</i> —	1950	—	27,630
	1955	—	37,290
	1960	—	49,810
	1965	—	47,580
	1966	—	48,020
	1967	—	48,480

Density of Persons per house 3.13

Births—Comparability Factor 0.87

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	294	252	546
Illegitimate	...	...	15	23	38
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			309	275	584
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 population:—

			<i>C.F. Adjusted</i>
Longbenton U.D.	...	...	12.05
Northumberland County...	...	...	14.76
England and Wales	...	...	17.2

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	7	1	8
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			7	1	8
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births 13.51

Total Live and Still Births 592

Illegitimate Live Births (% of Total Live Births) 6.51

Deaths—Comparability Factor 1.49

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number	...	...	252	201	453

Rate per 1,000 population *C.F. Adjusted*

Longbenton U.D.	...	...	9.34	13.92
Northumberland County...	...	...	11.63	11.97
England and Wales	...	...	11.2	

The commonest causes of Death during 1967 were:—

Heart and Circulation	217
Cancer	96
Respiratory Diseases	58

Infant Mortality

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths under 1 year of age						
Legitimate	...	...	...	9	2	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	—	2
				—	—	—
				11	2	13
				—	—	—
Deaths under 4 weeks of age						
Legitimate	...	...	...	7	1	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
				—	—	—
				8	1	9
				—	—	—
Deaths under 1 week of age						
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	1	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
				—	—	—
				7	1	8
				—	—	—

Infant mortality rates (total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births)

Longbenton U.D.	22.26
Northumberland County	17.61
England and Wales	18.3

Infant Mortality—

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	20.15
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	52.63
Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of Infants under 4 weeks of age (Neo Natal Mortality Rate)						
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	15.41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	14.65
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	26.32
Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of Infants under 1 week of age (Early Neo-Natal mortality rate)						
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	13.70

Legitimate Births	Infants	per 1,000	Legitimate Live Births	12.82
Illegitimate Births	Infants	per 1,000	Illegitimate Live Births	26.32
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births (Perinatal Mortality Rate)				27.03

Causes of Infant Deaths—

Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	6
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	1
Intra-Cranial Haemorrhage	...	...	...	1

Maternal Mortality (Including Abortion)—

Number of Deaths ... Nil

Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births Nil

The natural increase of the population for the year, i.e. the excess of births over deaths, was 131.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGBENTON

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years								75 and over
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	1										1	
Tuberculosis, Other	F												
Syphilitic Disease	M	1				1						1	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	F	1											
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	6										1	1
	F	5									3	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	26									1	10	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	3									4		2
	M	8									1		1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F										4	1	2
	M	1											
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	F	24									1	3	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	18						1			4	8	10
	F	4									3	1	1
	M	1									1		
Diabetes	F	1											
	M	3										1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	F	15									1	3	10
Coronary disease, Angina	M	39									4	10	19
	F	72									18	27	12
	M	35									1	12	14
Hypertension with heart disease	F	5									2	2	3
	M	3											2
Other heart disease	F	16									1	2	10
	M	22									1	2	12

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE
DURING 1967 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGBENTON—Continued

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
Other circulatory disease	M	3										1	2
Influenza	F	7										1	5
Pneumonia	M	1		2									
	F	16								1		2	10
Bronchitis	M	15										4	10
	F	18								1		8	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	4										3	1
	F	3		1								1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	1											1
	F	2								2			
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	2								1		1	1
	F	2											
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	3		1						1			2
	F	5											2
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	2											1
	F	2								1			1
Congenital malformations	M	2											1
	F	3	1									1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	1	1										
Motor vehicle accidents	M	13	7										2
	F	14								1		3	7
All other accidents	M	4								1		4	
	F	3								2		1	
Suicide	M	7								1		1	3
	F	9										1	
	M	2								1			
	F	2											
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	252	8	3	2	3	2	3	7	39	50	68	69
	F	201	1	1	3	1	3	1	3	21	30	40	101

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1967

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	252	201
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis, Other Forms	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	26	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	24	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	15	39
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	72	35
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	16	22
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	7
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	16	15
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	18	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	13	14
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	7	9
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—

TABLE SHOWING THE INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES SINCE
THE FORMATION OF THE LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL IN 1935.

1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
78.3	85.22	87.3	70.27	51.9	85.7	60.6	51.8	61.1
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
35.95	76.54	35.95	36.68	43.68	38.87	31.47	25.80	38.31
1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
23.76	24.41	35.18	20.40	16.52	18.18	27.71	17.54	15.29
1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967			
24.59	14.60	20.46	20.28	19.88	20.15			

6 PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following tables show the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

Infectious Diseases 1966 and 1967

	Number of Cases					
	1966			1967		
	M	F	Tot	M	F	Tot
Scarlet Fever	3	3	6	4	2	6
Whooping Cough	4	8	12	7	9	16
Diphtheria... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	224	234	458	128	132	260
Acute Pneumonia... ..	4	4	8	5	4	9
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	11	6	17	13	8	21
Meninges	—	—	—	—	—	—
C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	246	256	502	157	155	312

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) SHOWING
THE AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION DURING 1967

	Total Cases Noti- fied	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	Over 65 years	Age not known
Scarlet Fever	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	16	—	4	5	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	260	11	76	72	95	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	9	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	291	11	81	77	107	3	5	—	1	3	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1967.—The following Tables are self explanatory:—

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED FORM A				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
45 to 64 years ...	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	8	—	—	1	—	—	1

CASES TRANSFERRED INTO AREA	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	—	1	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	2	—	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	1	—	—	—
Age not known	—	—	—	—
	3	1	—	—

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER as at 31st Dec., 1967.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/67 ...	243	221	464	44	48	92	556
New Cases ...	13	8	21	—	—	—	21
Cases Transferred into Area ...	3	1	4	—	—	—	4
Cases Reinstated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases Removed ...	20	16	36	2	1	3	39
Cases on Register at 31/12/67	239	214	453	42	47	89	542

7 HEALTH SERVICES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

The following Clinics are held in the district:—

BURRADON

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Alternate Thursday afternoons.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	Alternate Tuesday afternoons.

DUDLEY

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Every Tuesday—Full Day.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	Every Wednesday afternoon.
IMMUNISATION CLINIC	Monday afternoon—4 weekly.
TODDLER CLINIC	3rd Thursday in month—afternoon.
ANTE-NATAL TALKS	Usually Monday afternoons.

FOREST HALL.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Every Tuesday—Full Day.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	Every Wednesday afternoon.
IMMUNISATION CLINIC	Thursday morning—4 weekly.
TODDLER CLINICS (2)	Both held Thursday mornings — 4 weekly.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC combined with TODDLER CLINICS	Thursday—4 weekly.

KILLINGWORTH.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Alternate Thursday afternoons.
----------------------	--------------------------------

Longbenton.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Every Monday, all day. Every Friday, all day.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	Every Tuesday afternoon. Every Wednesday, all day. Every Tuesday morning 11—12. Every Thursday morning 10—11. Every Thursday afternoon.
POLIO IMMUNISATION CLINIC	Thursday—4 weekly.
IMMUNISATION CLINIC	Every Friday with Child Welfare Clinic.
TODDLER CLINIC	Thursday—4 weekly
RELAXATION CLASSES	Thursday afternoons.
ANTE-NATAL TALKS	Thursday afternoons.

WOODLANDS PARK

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Every Tuesday afternoon. Alternate Friday mornings. Every Friday afternoon.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	Every Wednesday afternoon. Every Thursday morning.
TODDLER CLINIC	Held with Child Welfare Clinic.
IMMUNISATION CLINIC	Held with Child Welfare Clinic.
ANTE-NATAL TALKS	Every Thursday afternoon.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This is operated by Northumberland County Council, ambulances are supplied either from Wideopen Depot or Whitley Bay (for South part of the District). For all parts of the area ambulances may be obtained by telephoning Wideopen 4141.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Northumberland County Council Home Help service operates in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required because of illness or confinement. The services of a Home Help are obtained on application to the South East Area Health Office, Shiremoor. Applications need the support of a medical certificate.

LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of the
 LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
 Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the Public Health Inspection and Refuse Collection Departments for the year 1967.

8. HOUSING

Details showing the number of families re-housed during 1967 and the numbers still remaining on the Housing Applications List, have been kindly supplied by the Housing Manager who states that all present applicants have re-registered during the year.

The following table shows the number of houses allocated to the various types of applicants.

POINTS SCHEME:

Catagories:	A	B	C	D & O.P.	Total
	24	2	34	79	139

OTHERS:

Key Workers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Special Allocations			...	...	...	10
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	—
Evictions	...	...	...	...	...	3
						162

Allocation of Council Houses at Killingworth Township:

Key Workers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overspill (Defined Areas)			...	...	...	4
Newcastle Nominations	...	...	...	...	...	90
Police Authority	...	...	...	...	...	1
Others	...	...	...	...	...	3
						104

This makes a Grand Total of 266 Allocations made.

In the interests of good management the following moves have also taken place:

Transfers to less accommodation	...	...	...	...	32
Transfers to more accommodation	...	...	...	...	31
Transfers to same accommodation	...	...	...	...	18
Transfers to Aged Persons' Accommodation	...	...	...	...	28
Outside Exchanges	...	...	...	...	10
					119

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applicants for Council Houses between 31/12/51 and 31/12/67:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
CATEGORY 'A.' Applicants with homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	236	205	116	98	86	55	32	39	59	50	27	42	41	40	29	32	20
CATEGORY 'B.' Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	150	138	24	15	6	4	7	8	5	11	15	18	10	15	11	17	20
CATEGORY 'C.' Applicants without homes of their own but not over- crowded	446	532	465	550	484	411	183	397	353	379	200	265	179	241	164	229	280
CATEGORY 'D.' Normal applicants desiring improved hous- ing accommo- dation but not overcrowded	666	740	717	761	722	765	431	557	604	586	571	807	702	794	631	607	688
AGED PERSON. Requiring Aged Persons Bungalows																151	173
	1498	1615	1322	1424	1298	1235	653	1001	1021	1026	813	1132	932	1090	835	1036	1181

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

With the contractors on the site at Burradon it can be expected that re-housing will begin with the "Rows" comprising:—

<i>Location</i>			<i>No. of Dwellings</i>
Office Row, Burradon ...	...	...	40
Double Row, Burradon ...	...	...	14
Quality Row, Burradon ...	...	...	7
Middle Row, Burradon ...	...	...	25
North Row, Burradon ...	...	...	27
Burradon Road, Burradon ...	...	...	8
Burradon Terrace, Burradon ...	...	...	22
Annitsford Terrace, Burradon ...	...	...	14
TOTAL			157

By arrangement with the National Coal Board as these houses become vacant they are being sealed up to prevent vandalism.

Attention was also directed to Dudley and Annitsford, all houses in Coquet Terrace and Western Terrace, Dudley, as well as the houses in Lee Street, Jackson Street and Jubilee Terrace, Annitsford were given consideration and by the end of the year many of these had been fully inspected.

These streets contain the following premises:—

<i>Location</i>			<i>No. of Dwellings</i>
Coquet Terrace, Dudley ...	...	...	42
Western Terrace, Dudley ...	...	...	26
Lee Street, Annitsford... ..	...	...	46
Jackson Street, Annitsford ...	...	...	39
Jubilee Terrace, Annitsford ...	...	...	40
TOTAL			193

It should be possible to clear these sites by about 1970 which would then leave the following dwellings to be dealt with thereafter:—

<i>Location</i>			<i>No. of Dwellings</i>
Turner Street, West Allotment ...	...	...	50
Oswin Road, Forest Hall ...	...	...	10
Oswin Avenue, Forest Hall ...	...	...	71
Edwins Avenue, Forest Hall ...	...	...	71
TOTAL			202

Apart from a few old houses scattered about the District, the above form the bulk of unfit premises at present under consideration. It remains to use the powers and facilities available to bring houses which may be considered saving by means of improvement, this subject being commented upon later in this chapter.

REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES

It is fortunate that fairly wide powers exist which enables a Local Authority to insist that privately owned houses must be kept in a reasonable state of repair, in so much that they are fit for human habitation.

Having just commented upon the slum clearance programme, the need for fit houses requires reference. It would be true to say that the vast majority of privately owned dwellings are well maintained but perhaps this is partly due to the realisation that this can be insisted upon.

However, although no statutory action was necessary some 76 houses were made fit by informal approach to owners. Most of these houses may be considered to lie within a 'twilight zone,' being not bad enough to condemn, nor with a life long enough to improve. As in previous years most complaints concerned dampness and it is especially gratifying to find the number of times when this serious defect can be remedied.

A summary of repairs remedied as before included the following:—

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>External:</i> | Weatherproofing of roofs.
Repair or replacement of eavesgutters and rain water pipes.
Pointing of external walls.
Provision of sanitary accommodation.
The re-surfacing of yards.
Maintenance of good drainage. |
| <i>Internal:</i> | Repairing broken wall and ceiling plaster.
Renewing floors.
Repairing doors and windows.
Replacing fireplaces. |
| <i>Fittings:</i> | Replacing sinks.
Providing dustbins.
Repair of water and waste pipes.
Replacement of cisterns. |

A good deal of advice was given for the eradication of dampness, the elimination of dry rot, woodworm and the improvement of natural lighting and ventilation.

HOUSING.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1967.

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	307	—	307
By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
By private persons	—	134	134
Total	307	134	441

Total number of inhabited houses in District 15,467

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 4,178

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. FORMAL ACTION

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1967 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ... 4
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) ... —
- (2) Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action ... —

B. INFORMAL ACTION

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above ... —
- (2) Houses demolished ... —

RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1967 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

- (a) As a result of Informal Action ... 76
- (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... —
- (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A. *Discretionary Grants.*

1	Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	...	...	...	...	...	15
2	Applications rejected by Local Authority during year	...	...	...	...	...	—
3	Applications approved by Local Authority during year	...	...	...	...	...	15
4	Approximate average grant approved per house						£302
5	Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	...	...	...	...	...	257

B. *Standard Grants.*

						Total to Date
1	Number of separate houses for which grants were made during year	...	...	...	17	123
2	Number of houses provided with:—					
	(a) Bath or shower	...	...	...	13	90
	(b) Wash-hand basin	...	...	...	16	96
	(c) Hot water supply	...	...	...	13	90
	(d) Water closet	...	...	...	17	115
	(e) Foodstore	...	...	...	10	73

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

A total of 27 houses were improved during the year, 10 as a result of "Discretionary" grants and 17 "Standard" grants. No further scheme of block treatments were carried out. It has been found that the preparation of plans and specifications obtaining of tenders and supervising the work was an added strain the department could not carry.

There still seems to be some reluctance on the part of owners to take advantage of this worthwhile scheme for house improvement. Many regarding the conditions of grant with some suspicion, often looking for non-existent snags. It is essential that intending applicants, in the case where a house is tenanted, be made aware of the fact that the money they spend can be recovered by rent increase in eight years and that the value of the property is increased.

CONCLUSION

It is significant that this part of the annual report should commence with the important issue of housing. That the inhabitants of the district be adequately housed is of paramount importance to the welfare and social well being of all concerned.

The ideal would be to provide housing accommodation for those who need it, the standard must be high. All houses which are unfit for human habitation should be demolished, the older types remaining should be kept in a good state of repair and where amenities are lacking these ought to be provided.

9. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	1	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	69	36	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	15	15	7	—
Total	85	52	23	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'ctor	By H.M. Inspe'tor	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	14	11	—	3	—
Total	15	12	—	3	—

TABLE OF OUTWORKERS.

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August List.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing Apparel Making, etc.	9	—	—	—	—	—
All other outworkers	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	—	—	—	—	—

10. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company provides the Urban District with a plentiful and wholesome supply of water.

The Company takes regular samples at all points from the source to the point of supply, examination includes chemical analysis as well as for the presence of bacteria.

Whenever complaints have been received the Company have always acted speedily and in no instance has any complainant been dissatisfied.

The Health Department took 65 samples for bacteriological examination from dwelling houses, factories, business and other premises from varying parts of the District. All samples were satisfactory.

The Department also obtained 2 specimens of water which were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. A report reads:—

<i>Chemical Results</i>	<i>Parts per Million</i>
Total solids dried at 180°C	160
Chlorine as chlorides	15
Free ammonia	Trace
Albuminoid ammonia	0.06
Nitrogen as nitrates	1.6
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 27°C)	2.3
Total Hardness	120
Non-carbonate hardness	40
Carbonate hardness	80
Lead and Copper	None
Iron	None
Appearance and colour	Exceedingly pale yellow and clear
Smell and taste	satisfactory
Microscopical examination of deposit	satisfactory
pH value	7.3
Residual chlorine	None

Report:—The sample of water is organically pure, free from colour, odour and taste, and highly suitable for Public Supply.

DRAINAGE

All enquiries regarding drainage were promptly attended to. This included advice upon the layout of drainage systems for buildings, the inspection and testing of drains and clearing or renewal of choked and faulty systems. I must thank the Engineer and Surveyor and his staff for their close co-operation, particularly in coming to assistance when stoppages have occurred during holidays and week-ends when other agencies are unobtainable.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Only 2 premises are provided with privy closets, indeed it is significant that many dwellings are now provided with 2 water closets, particularly in the case of where improvement grants have been awarded, the original closet remaining.

DUSTBINS

Complaints regarding the absence of dustbins or in instances where bins were so defective as to be dangerous when handling always resulted with the provision of a new bin. The Department keeps a supply of dustbins for sale when required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Two streams in the District need constant attention, whereas years ago these were merely country brooks, now the situation is such that private development has occurred which renders these liable to contamination by dumping of refuse.

POOLS AND LAKES

As well as bacteriological and chemical analysis of water supplies, samples were also taken from the baths at the spastic centre, the pools in the scout's camp and from the lake at Killingworth.

Referring to the spastic centre high chlorine figures resulted but by adjustment of the amount of chlorine added to the water these figures were corrected to produce good results. Routine sampling of the lake water at Killingworth gave surprisingly good results so that apparently the gradual flow across the lake maintains a satisfactory standard of purity.

The swimming bath in the scout's camp at Gosforth Park showed contamination. This is hand chlorinated and after treatment further tests indicated purity.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Action was needed under this heading during 1967, on one occasion.

SCHOOLS

All schools in the area are provided with a sufficient and suitable water supply from the mains supply together with a water carriage system of sanitary accommodation. Periodical inspections are made of all schools and particular attention paid to those schools provided with school meals facilities, including kitchens.

HOUSING

The figures produced by the Housing Manager and the Chief Public Health Inspector show the extensive work carried out in the use of new Council Houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Nutrition.*

Talks were given to young mothers in Child Welfare Clinics.

(b) *Shellfish and Molluscan*

There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in the district.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no caravan sites licensed in the area. There is one caravan licensed and used by the owner of a market garden which is a considerable distance from a built-up area.

MOBILE SHOPS

There is still a considerable number of mobile shops operating throughout the district, not only on new estates where new shops have been provided, but in the whole of the district. It would appear that there is a trend towards making more visits to shops and it is felt that perhaps the number of vans is being reduced. Vans are inspected regularly to see that the Food Hygiene Regulations are being complied with.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

By the end of the year 240 premises were on the register. All newly registered premises received a general inspection and in all 626 visits were made.

Details are indicated in the following tables:

(A) REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises one or more receiving general inspections during the year
Offices	5	48	29
Retail Shops	10	150	116
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	3	6	6
Catering establishments open to the public—canteens	1	32	24
Fuel storage depots	—	4	4
TOTALS	19	240	179

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act 626.

(B) ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS.

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 62	13	Sitting facilities 8
5	Overcrowding 2	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) 2
6	Temperature 45	15	Eating facilities 2
7	Ventilation 11	16	Floors, passage & stairs 66
8	Lighting 20	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery 19
9	Sanitary Conveniences 74	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery —
10	Washing facilities 37	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous mach. —
11	Supply of Drinking Water 4	23	Prohibition of heavy work —
12	Clothing Accommodation 10	24	First Aid General Prov. 38
			TOTAL 400

(C) EXEMPTIONS

No. of applications received	...	...	...None
No. of applications granted	...	...	...None
(i) Space	...	...	...None
(ii) Temperature	...	...	...None
(iii) Sanitary Convenience	...	...	...None
(iv) Running Water	...	...	...None

(D) REPORTED ACCIDENTS.

Workplace	Number Reported	Total Number Investigated	Action Recommended			
			Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	No Action
Offices	2	2			2	
Retail Shops	3	3			2	1
Wholesale Shops Warehouses						
Catering establishments open to public, canteens						
Fuel storage depots						
TOTALS	5	5			4	1

Analysis of reported accidents.

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering establishments open to public canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery		3			
Transport					
Falls of persons	2				
Stepping on or striking against object or person					
Handling goods					
Struck by falling object					
Fires and explosions					
Electricity					
Use of hand tools					
Not otherwise specified					

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There is now no licensed slaughterhouse in the district. All meat and other foods are inspected either in transit or when offered for sale.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Various commodities were examined by the Public Health Laboratory, the commodities being obtained either during manufacture, or in transit but mainly whilst offered for sale in food shops. In some instances they were also obtained from householders who had reason to doubt the substance of the foodstuffs. The following list gives some indication of the various types dealt with:—

Cream Cakes	Fresh Double Cream
Devon Cream	Pork
Luncheon Meat	Tinned Ham
Egg Roll	

MILK SUPPLY

Cow byres are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Producers, Dairies, Distributors and Dealers of milk are under the control of the Local Authority.

The following licences have been granted:—

- 32 Dealers' licences to retail pasteurised milk.
- 59 Dealers' licences to retail sterilised milk.
- 7 Dealers' licences to retail untreated milk.

MILK SAMPLING

36 samples taken by the Department were analysed with our own equipment for the determination of fat and non-fatty solids content. These specimens were of the required standard.

40 specimens of pasteurised milk were examined to prove efficient pasteurisation and cleanliness. Three results for cleanliness were unsatisfactory.

16 sterilised milk samples were subjected to the turbidity test for evidence of sterilisation. All tests were correct.

In the case of untreated milk, altogether 24 specimens were examined for various details. These include tests for tuberculosis, brucellosis and antibiotic residues. It is pleasing to report that in every example results were entirely satisfactory.

In accordance with a Ministry Circular, milk samples were taken from each and every cow from a farm at Burradon. These 36 samples were submitted for tests to detect the presence of brucella abortus organisms. All the 36 samples proved negative.

These tests were necessary as part of the milk production of this herd is retailed in an untreated state in this area and if infected may cause disease in man. I would mention, however, that regular tests are carried out on this particular type of milk when retail pints are purchased from the roundsman during routine monthly sampling by this department.

The actual herd sampling could best be described as an "examination in depth."

DISEASE FROM MILK

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairy Regulations, 1949.

ICE CREAM

There are no licensed ice cream manufacturers in the District. Premises from which ice cream is sold are registered with the Local Authority, most supplies are sold direct from refrigerators and are pre-wrapped.

64 samples were obtained for examination, of these 61 were classified grade I, this being highly satisfactory, the other three being placed in grade IV.

Regarding the unsatisfactory samples, the manufacturers were contacted and an investigation commenced. After installing refrigeration equipment good results were obtained.

51 samples of ice lollies were examined for the presence of coliform bacilli. 2 unsatisfactory specimens were reported.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the type and quantity of meat and other foods surrendered for condemnation during 1966:—

	cwts.	lbs.
Meat at Wholesale Premises	—	18
Canned Meat	8	86
Canned Foods	65	24
Other Foods	—	27
Total	94	43

No cases of cystercercus bovis or tuberculosis were encountered during the year, one slaughterman's licence was issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

Various commodities were encountered containing foreign bodies as under:—

Commodity	Foreign Body	Remarks
Raspberries	Maggots	Imported
Lemonade Bottle	Dirt	
Meat Pies (4)	Mould	
Potato Crisps	Cockroach	
Corned Beef	Decomposed	Imported
Cheese	Mould	
Bread	Insect	
Date and Walnut Cake	Nail	
Almonds	Maggots	Imported
Milk Bottle	Dirt	

In 5 cases proceedings were instituted under section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, all prosecutions were successful involving fines and costs of £111 10s. 0d.

FOOD HYGIENE

420 inspections were made under this heading during 1967, though no prosecutions were taken, many informal notices were sent to proprietors drawing attention to offences against the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FOOD POISONING

No cases were notified during 1967.

THE SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The following food and drugs samples were taken during 1967 by the department's inspectors. All were analysed by the public analyst:—

Foodstuffs

Fish Cakes (2)	Cream
Skimmed Milk	Draught Beer
Curry Powder	Minced Steak Pie
Beef Sausage (4)	Lettuce
Cherry Genoa Cake	Pork Luncheon Fingers
Bottled Beer	Instant Milk
Coffee & Chicory Essence (2)	Marmite
Baking Powder	Cheshire Cheese
Butter (2)	Slimming Chocolate
Margarine	Blackcurrant Filling
Self-Raising Flour	Syrup of Figs

The sampling of food and drugs—continued

Pork Sausage	Cheese Spread
Fish Paste	Tomato Juice
Jelly	Chutney
Baby Food	Tea
Tomato Puree	Peach Wine
Yoghurt	Shortbread
Desiccated Coconut	Minced Beef Pie (2)
Corned Beef	

Drugs

Codeine Tablets	Aspirin
Virol	

In addition to the above samples, samples of eggs and lettuce were obtained and examined for the presence of residual pesticides. These analyses were acceptable.

One sample of minced beef pie contained only 17% meat as against a recommended content of 25%. The manufacturers were sent a warning letter and a further sample indicated a genuine article.

As regards the remaining foodstuffs and drugs all were genuine.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

It was possible to empty each bin at least once weekly and, in particular, a thrice fortnightly collection is maintained in the colliery districts and on some Council estates. With the provision of larger capacity vehicles, and the increase in the number of premises using paper sacks and bulk storage containers, the average number of bins emptied each week is over 20,000.

All freighters in use are supplied by Messrs. Shelvoke & Drewry Ltd., of Letchworth, details being:—

Vehicle	Year	Type	Capacity	Fuel
EJR 138	1951	F/Aft Tipper	18 c.yd.	Petrol
HTY 592	1955	Side Loader	12 c.yd.	Petrol
LNL 978	1957	Side Loader	12 c.yd.	Petrol
MTY 820	1958	F/Aft Tipper	18 c.yd.	Petrol
TTY 544	1961	F/Aft Tipper	18 c.yd.	Petrol
VJR 779	1962	Bulk Loader	18 c.yd.	Diesel
WTY 385	1962	F/Aft Tipper	18 c.yd.	Diesel
ENL 146 C	1965	Compression	35 c.yd.	Diesel
JTY 501 D	1966	Compression	50 c.yd.	Diesel

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

As in the past, the Council has continued its policy of refuse disposal by means of controlled tipping. The refuse from Gosforth Urban District has been disposed of at the present tip at Scaffold Hill, off Whitley Road.

The site is a good one but its life will be of short duration and it is hoped that it will be possible to obtain land in the same vicinity for future years. Being well away from industrial and domestic premises it is possible to tip without causing any nuisance, the use of screens and fences protect the surrounding land and livestock.

At the completion of operations derelict land will have been reclaimed for future grazing. It must be recorded that the Council wholeheartedly co-operated with the Joint Working Party for Refuse Disposal in Tyneside/Wearside.

Consultations with the owners of land near to the Wallsend boundary concerning nearly 40 acres of tipping site have been successful, however, on account of nature conservancy, planning permission will present difficulties. Should this state of affairs prevail the only option remaining will be to extend the present tip towards the main road.

The findings of the Joint Working Party for Refuse Disposal in Tyneside/Wearside recommend incineration of all refuse by means of suitable plant serving neighbouring authorities. This will of course give a hygienic system of disposal but we must be prepared to pay the extra cost.

STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)—land and inland water ...	6,786 acres
Population at 30th June, 1967 (Registrar General's Estimate)	48,480 persons
Total refuse collected	22,575 tons
What percentage of total refuse collected (tons) is weighed	—%
Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)... ..	25.5 cwts
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	17,231
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly	100% of total
Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including—miles by secondary transport)	2.4 miles
Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	NIL%
Total refuse disposed of :—	
(i) Council's own refuse	22,575 tons
(ii) for other local authorities	9,692 tons
(iii) total	32,267 tons

Methods of disposal (salvage excluded)

(a)	Crude tipping	...	...	...	...	—%
(b)	Controlled tipping	...	...	...	...	100%
(c)	Separation (controlled tipping)	...	...	...	...	—%
(d)	Direct incineration	...	...	...	...	—%
(e)	Separation and incineration	...	...	...	...	—%
(f)	Other methods (state nature)	...	...	...	...	—%
						<hr/> 100%

Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage

						<i>Income</i>	<i>Tonnage Collected</i>
(a)	Raw kitchen waste	...	...	...	...	—	—
(b)	Scrap Metal	...	...	...	...	—	—
(c)	Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	£5652	610
(d)	Other salvage	...	...	...	...	20	1
						<hr/>	<hr/>
(e)	Totals	...	...	...	...	£5672	611
Trade Refuse							
(a)	Income	...	...	...	...	...	£1,000
(b)	Tonnage	...	...	...	...	...	Not known

TRADE REFUSE

The policy of charging 13/- per bin per annum has continued in the case of the removal of trade refuse. The volume of such refuse is increasing steadily as new industries come into operation. Some firms deposit refuse by means of their own transport for which a charge of £1 per load is made.

SALVAGE

The amount of waste paper collected during the year came to a total of £5,652. This provides added employment, leaves a profit for the Council and saves having to deposit some 600 tons of paper on the tip.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rats and Mice—Regular inspections and treatments were made to the refuse tip and sewage disposal works. Allotments and small-holdings in the district are kept under strict observation. Inspections are made by the Council's Rodent Operator and co-operation has been obtained with the respective owners where any infestation of rats has been found. We have contracts with a number of farmers and industrialists and their premises are given four regular services per year, although the treatments necessary are comparatively small, the farmers seem to be quite satisfied in that we are keeping the premises free from large infestations.

SEWERS

Test baiting of sewers was carried out in May and November. Only in a few instances were rat 'takes' of bait recorded.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

Type of Property			No. of Properties Surveyed (Inc. Re-surveys)	No. of Inspections Made	No. treated by L.A. Rats Mice	
Local Authority ...			22	70	13	
Business ...			77	264	41	4
HOUSES	L.A.	...	264	555	74	22
	Private	...	372	978	163	28
Agri-cultural	Allotments	...	90	115	11	
	Others	...	10	34	33	
Totals... ..			835	2016	335	54

Bodies recovered : 125 Rats and 54 Mice.

DISINFESTATION

The following table indicates the work done under this section:—

Type of Infestation	No. of Houses Inspected		No. of Houses Treated by L.A.	
	Council	Private	Council	Private
Furniture Inspections	56	136	56	135
Infectious Disease Fumigations ...	—	5	—	5
Woodworm... ..	3	3	3	3
Fleas	4	6	4	6
Earwigs	1	—	1	—
Wasps	—	4	—	4
Clover Mites	1	1	1	1
Blow Flies	—	2	—	2
Bees... ..	—	6	—	6
Ants	1	—	1	—
Mosquitoes	—	1	—	1
Silver Fish	—	1	—	—
Cluster Flies	—	1	—	1
Bed Bugs	—	2	—	2
Cockroaches	139	26	136	25
Carpet Beetle	—	1	—	1
Clothes Moth	1	—	1	—
Lice	—	1	—	1
Plaster Beetle	1	1	1	1
Ground Beetle	10	1	9	1
TOTALS	217	198	213	195

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The amount of foreign matter in the atmosphere is obtained by apparatus set up in the Health Department Office.

The instrument is in continuous operation and calculations are made to find the amounts of smoke particles and sulphur dioxide present in the air.

Regarding smoke the highest monthly average was 181 in January, the lowest was 38 in July, these figures are expressed in micrograms per cubic metre of air. For sulphur dioxide the corresponding figures were 115 in January and 50 in March.

The figures as plotted on the graph show how pollution is related to the seasons. When one considers that industry is more or less working constantly throughout the year then the source of pollution would appear to be domestic in origin.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, 1967.

MONTH	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Micrograms per cubic metre.					
	Monthly Average.	Highest daily Average.	Lowest daily Average.	Monthly Average.	Highest daily Average.	Lowest daily Average.
January ...	181	355	49	115	200	12
February ...	85	200	10	72	132	23
March ...	77	389	3	50	143	23
April ...	137	785	18	65.2	197	23
May ...	83	149	35	77	110	34
June ...	63	137	10	53	123	23
July ...	38	83	14	82	136	41
August ...	43	138	14	90	145	44
September ...	81	214	18	67	139	45
October ...	108	258	37	77	148	38
November ...	167	430	11	72	446	35
December ...	127	395	23	74	226	23

TABLE INDICATING THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF INSPECTIONS—1967
HOUSING.

General Inspections	...	...	...	...	151
Defects	...	...	...	...	540
Improvements Grants	...	...	...	...	285
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	140
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
				—	1,117
PUBLIC HEALTH.					
Drainage	...	...	...	...	194
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	85
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	45
Infectious Disease (including Fumigation)	...	...	...	...	41
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	225
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	242
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	36
Offensive Accumulations...	...	...	...	...	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	40
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	5
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	4
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	244
Special Visits	...	...	...	...	35
				—	1,198
FOOD AND DRUGS.					
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	420
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	154
Food Vans	...	...	...	...	110
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	94
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	60
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	36
Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	63
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	15
Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	33
Milk Regulations	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	60
Ice Cream Sampling	...	...	...	...	40
Ice Lollie Sampling	...	...	...	...	7
				—	1,093

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Tipping and Salvage	...	...	...	...	305
Scavenging and Transport	...	...	...	...	284
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	105
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	3
				—	697
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	103
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...				615
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	6
Home Safety	...	...	...	...	17
				TOTAL	4,846

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year. Tribute must be made to all members of the staff for their high efficiency and sense of duty. Once again I am indebted to the Officers of all departments of the Council who have co-operated so willingly during the year.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. THIRKELL,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Graph to show smoke and Sulphur Dioxide pollution for 1967.

