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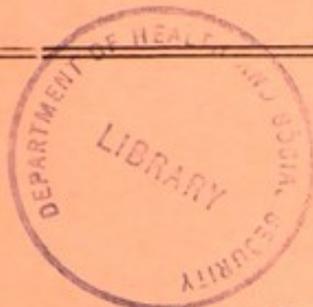
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**Longbenton**

**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

*County of Northumberland*

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# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

FOR THE YEAR

**1968**

*of*

**A. W. HAY**

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

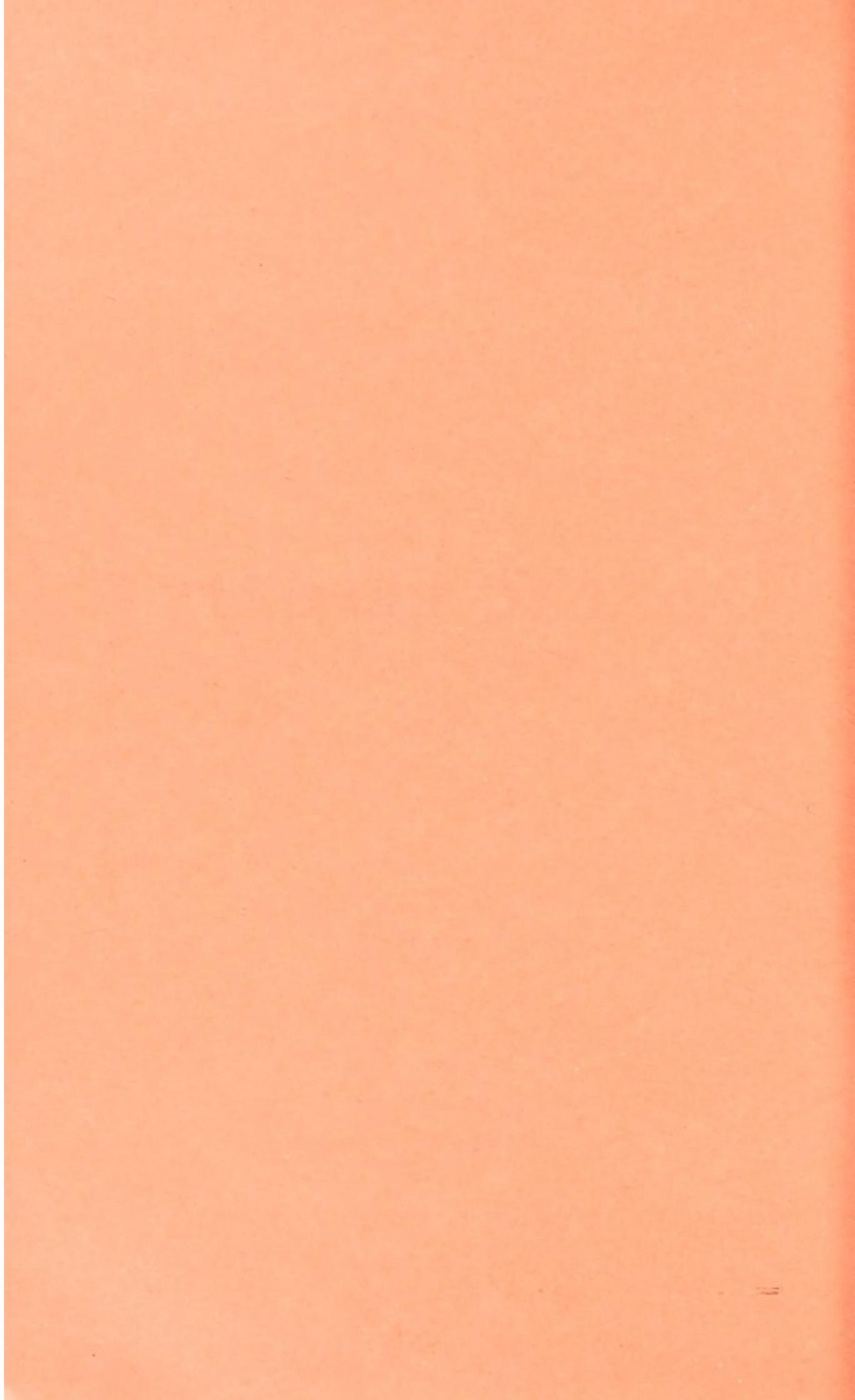
*Medical Officer of Health*

*and*

**R. W. THIRKELL**

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

*Chief Public Health Inspector*



**Longbenton**  
**Urban District Council**

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## **Longbenton Urban District Council**

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### **1. PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman:* Councillor W. M. Means.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor W. F. Fawcett.

*Councillors:* Mrs. Cummings, J. Fawcett, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Jeffries, Johnston, Kilgallon, Kirby, Love, McCardle, Meek, Mitchell, Murphy, Mrs. Smailes, Mrs. Stoker, Wardle and Mrs. Warner.

## 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	MISS N. BROWN	
Clerk	MISS S. WALKER	

### 3. LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ARTHUR W. HAY

for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

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*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, 1968.

The population continues to rise with the new housing development at Killingworth New Town, and has reached a total of 48,650. There were 606 births registered in the district, representing a birth rate of 10.88 live births per thousand of the population. This is a low rate, being less than the average for the County of Northumberland (14.21), and much less than the national average of 16.9. Ten years ago the birth rate was more than 15 per thousand and a total of 900 births were recorded in 1958.

474 deaths were recorded, giving a rate of 14.5 per thousand of the population. This is higher than the average for the County (13.08) and higher than the national rate of 11.9. The main cause of death was heart disease, followed by cancer, and diseases of the respiratory system. These three diseases accounted for 408 of the 474 deaths. 63% of deaths were in persons over retiring age. The average age of death for men remains at about 68 years and for women 75 years. There are certain diseases which tend to kill men in the younger age groups but do not affect women to the same extent. For example, twenty men under the age of 65 died from cancer of the lung, but only two women in this age group died from the same disease. Thirty-one men under retiring age died from heart disease of the coronary type, but only eight women. Twenty-seven men under the age of 65 died from bronchitis, but only ten women in this age group died from the same disease. These three illnesses which all affect men so much more than women have all been associated with excessive cigarette smoking, and it would seem that the smoking habits of males is having an effect upon their mortality figures.

I am pleased to report that the infant mortality rate of 14.85 per thousand births was lower than that for the County of Northumberland (16.46) and significantly lower than the national figure of 18.0. It represents an improvement on the previous year when the rate was 22.26. There were no deaths in association with child-birth and the maternal mortality of nil is one which I have reported now for many years.

Notifications of infectious diseases were about the same as the previous year, and of the 384 cases reported most were measles (321). Now that the scheme for immunisation against this disease is being proceeded with in the infant welfare clinics it is expected that the numbers will fall over the next few years. I am pleased to report that the number of new cases of tuberculosis showed a considerable decrease, this year only 11 being notified compared with 21 in the previous year. The number of cases on the register continues to drop and now totals 521. This is more than 200 less than was shown on the register ten years ago.

#### *Atmospheric Pollution*

Measurement apparatus for detecting the amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere continually monitors the amount of pollution, and the figures are expressed in microgrammes per cubic metre of air. The records show that the amount of atmospheric pollution caused by domestic fires in the winter months is considerable. For many days at a time the levels are above those to which the public should be subjected. Monitoring of pollution has now been done for ten years and the results consistently show that June, July and August are the only months when the air in this district is free from harmful amounts of pollution—these being the only months when the climate is suitable for the use of domestic coal fires to be discontinued. I am pleased to report that the Council have indicated that they intend to implement the Clean Air Act and establish smoke control areas in the district.

#### *Fluoridation of Water*

The Newcastle & District Water Board introduced fluoridation of the water supply in October and maintained a level of one part of fluoride per million as this is the level recommended to prevent dental decay in children. As the water supplies of this area are inter-connected with those of the Tynemouth Water Board (who have not agreed to fluoridate the water) the amount of fluoride actually reaching consumers in Longbenton is found to be negligible—only a fraction of one part per million being present.

### *Housing*

The Chief Public Health Inspector has spent a great deal of time during the current year continuing with a scheme of house improvement, and progress has been maintained in this important field. Fifty-two houses were closed during the year and a slum clearance programme is proceeding in the Burradon, Dudley and Annitsford districts. The Public Health Inspectors have spent much time in technical inspections of defective houses and taking action to remedy defects. In addition, thirty-six houses were brought up to standard by giving either standard or discretionary improvement grants.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Health Department, and particularly to the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the work they have done during the year, and I would also like to thank the members of the Council and the Health Committee for their interest and support in public health measures aimed at improving the 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 area: 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 Health and Social Security 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 its 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 4,511 other 11,360 ...									15,871
Number of other Premises ...									1,992
Rateable Value ... ..									£1,398,668
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..									£5,930

### Vital

<i>Population</i> —									
	1950 —								27,630
	1955 —								37,290
	1960 —								49,810
	1965 —								47,580
	1966 —								48,020
	1968 —								48,650

Density of Persons per House 3.07.

*Births*—Comparability Factor 0.87

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	295	278	573
Illegitimate	18	15	33
	313	293	606

Rate per 1,000 population:—

				<i>C.F. Adjusted</i>	
Longbenton U.D.C. ... ..	12.46			10.88	
Northumberland County ...	13.39			14.21	
England and Wales ... ..	16.9				
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Still Births—Legitimate ...	4	6	10		
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—		
	4	6	10		
Rate per 1,000 total Births ... ..					16.23
England and Wales ... ..					14.00
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births ... ..					12.66
Total Live and Still Births ... ..					616
Illegitimate Live Births (% of total Live Births) ...					5.45

*Deaths*—Comparability Factor 1.49

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number ... ..	250	224	474
Rate per 1,000 population			
Longbenton U.D.C. ... ..	9.74	14.5	
Northumberland County ...	12.70	13.08	
England and Wales ... ..	11.9		

The commonest causes of Death during 1968 were:—

Heart and circulation	220
Cancer	102
Respiratory Diseases	86

*Infant Mortality*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths under 1 year of age			
Legitimate ... ..	3	5	8
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	3	6	9
	—	—	—
Deaths under 4 weeks of age			
Legitimate ... ..	2	4	6
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	2	5	7
	—	—	—
Deaths under 1 week of age			
Legitimate ... ..	2	4	6
Illegitimate ... ..	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	2	5	7
	—	—	—
Infant mortality rates (total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births)			
Longbenton	14.85		
Northumberland County	16.46		
England and Wales	18.00		

*Infant Mortality*

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... ..	13.96
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ..	30.30
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 ... ..	11.55
England and Wales ... ..	12.30
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... ..	10.47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ..	30.30

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 ...	...	...	...	11.55
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	10.50
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ...	...	...	...	10.47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	...	...	...	30.30
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births (Perinatal Mortality Rate) ...	...	...	...	27.60
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	25.00

#### Causes of Infant Deaths

Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity ...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	2
Inter-Cranial Haemorrhage ...	...	...	...	2

#### 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 132.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968 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											
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	1							1							
	F															
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M	7							1			4		1		1
	F	4										16		3		4
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	M	26							1					3		3
	F	5														
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	M															
	F	10									5	1		3		1
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	M															
	F	7				1					2	1		1		2
Leukaemia	M	2														
	F	1														
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	19														
	F	21								3	4	5	2	5	3	9
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1							1							
	F	1														1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	1														
	F	1												1		
Anaemias	M	1														
	F															1
Mental Disorders	M	2														
	F	3														2
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	M	7														3
	F	5							1			1		1		4
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	3								1				3		1
	F	5												1		2

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE  
DURING 1968 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGBENTON—Continued

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	4 weeks and under		Age in Years							75 and over		
			Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—		65—	
Hypertensive Disease	M	2												2
	F	9												5
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	64					3	8						22
	F	46					1	2						22
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	8												4
	F	8												6
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	30						2						14
	F	26						2						16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	8						1						4
	F	11												7
Influenza	M	1												1
	F	1												1
Pneumonia	M	15												10
	F	27												22
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	27												6
	F	7												4
Asthma	M	1												
	F	2												
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	3												
	F	3												
Peptic Ulcer	M	3												
	F	1												
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1												
	F	2												
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	4												
	F	3												

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE  
DURING 1968 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGBENTON—Continued

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years							75 and over	
					1—5	5—15	15—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65		
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1										1	
	F												
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2										1	1
	F												
Other Disease, Genito-Urinary System	M	1											1
	F	2											1
Congenital Anomalies	M	1				1							1
	F	4	3										1
Birth Injury, difficult Labour, etc.	M	1											
	F	1											
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	1											
	F	1	1										
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	M	2											
	F	3											2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1											3
	F	1											
All other accidents	M	3		1									1
	F	2											1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	1											
	F												
All other external Causes	M	4											
	F	1											
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	250	2	1		3	3	8	25	72	55	80	
	F	224	5	1		2	1	8	26	18	49	114	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LONGBENTON AREA, 1968

Causes of Death						Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	250	224
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	26	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	10
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
Leukaemia...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	19	21
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Anaemias	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Mental Disorders	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	9
Ischaemic Heart Disease...	...	...	...	...	...	64	46
Other forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	...	...	30	26
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	8	11
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	15	27
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	...	27	7
Asthma	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Hyperplasia and Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Birth Injury, difficult Labour, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other causes of Perinatal mortality	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
All other external Causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	4

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	1968		
24.59	14.60	20.46	20.28	19.88	20.15	14.85		

## 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 1967 and 1968

	Number of Cases					
	1966			1967		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	2	6	15	10	25
Whooping Cough ... ..	7	9	16	1	1	2
Diphtheria... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	128	132	260	146	175	321
Acute Pneumonia... ..	5	4	9	6	3	9
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	5	6	11
Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Infective Jaundice ... ..	—	—	—	2	2	4
Tuberculosis Respiratory ... ..	13	8	21	6	3	9
Meninges ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
C.N.S. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	2
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>384</b>

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) SHOWING  
THE AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION DURING 1968

	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	25	—	2	—	11	7	4	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	321	14	95	102	100	6	3	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	9	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	11	1	3	2	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	373	15	102	105	113	16	10	—	7	1	4	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1968.—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 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 44 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 64 years ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age not known ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	3	2	—	1	—	—	—

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

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER as at 31st Dec., 1968.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	Total
Cases on Register at 1/1/68 ...	232	210	442	42	47	89	531
New Cases ...	6	3	9	2	—	2	11
Cases transferred into Area ...	3	1	4	—	—	—	4
Cases Reinstated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases Removed	15	9	24	1	—	1	25
Cases on Register at 31/12/68 ...	226	205	431	43	47	90	521



## **WOODLANDS PARK**

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC	Every Tuesday afternoon. Alternate Friday mornings.
ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	Every Friday afternoon. Every Wednesday afternoon.
TODDLER CLINIC	Every Thursday morning.
IMMUNISATION CLINIC	Held with Child Welfare Clinic.
ANTE-NATAL TALKS	Held with Child Welfare Clinic. 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, 1968

*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 1968.

### 8. HOUSING.

Details showing the number of families re-housed during 1968 and the numbers still remaining on the Housing Applications List have been kindly supplied by the Housing Manager.

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

POINTS SCHEME						
Categories	A	B	C	D. & A.P.		Total
	7	3	30	52	34	126
OTHERS						
Key Workers	...	...	...	...	...	19
Special Allocations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	87
Evictions	...	...	...	...	...	2
						240
Allocation of Council Houses at Killingworth Township						
Key Workers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	5
Newcastle Nominations	...	...	...	...	...	285
Police Authority	...	...	...	...	...	3
Others	...	...	...	...	...	3
						541
GRAND TOTAL						541

This shows an increase in allocations of 275.

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

Transfers to less accommodation	...	...	30
Transfers to more accommodation	...	...	32
Transfers to similar accommodation	...	...	12
Transfers to Aged Persons' accommodation	...	...	39
Outside Exchanges	...	...	15
Transfers to Disabled Persons Bungalows	...	...	2
			130

The following table shows the fluctuation of the number of applicants for Council Houses between 31/12/52 and 31/12/68:-

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Category 'A' Applicants with homes of their own and resi- ding in overcrowded conditions	205	116	98	86	55	32	39	59	50	27	42	41	40	29	32	20	13
Category 'B' Applicants without homes of their own and residing in overcrowded conditions	138	24	15	6	4	7	8	5	11	15	18	10	15	11	17	20	9
Category 'C' Applicants without homes of their own but not over- crowded	532	465	550	484	411	183	397	353	379	200	265	179	241	164	229	280	194
Category 'D' Normal Appli- cants desiring improved housing accommodation but not over- crowded	740	717	761	722	765	431	557	604	586	571	807	702	794	631	607	688	676
Aged Persons Requiring Aged Persons Bungalows															151	173	176
	1615	1322	1424	1298	1235	653	1001	1021	1026	813	1132	932	1090	835	1036	1181	1068

## SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

At the commencement of the year the following houses were ready to be dealt with:

<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

It was gratifying to witness the rehousing of these families and by the end of the year 52 families had been rehoused, this involved a total of 135 persons. By arrangement with the National Coal Board these houses are being properly sealed off to prevent vandalism.

In order to keep "clearance" on the move, the inspection of houses continued at both Annitsford and Dudley, the following streets being under consideration:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of Dwellings</i>
Coquet Terrace, Dudley ...	31
Western Terrace, Dudley ...	25
Lee Street, Annitsford... ..	50
Jackson Street, Annitsford ...	43
Jubilee Terrace, Annitsford ...	44
TOTAL ...	193

All the premises in Annitsford were presented to the Council for action and it was resolved to treat this by way of compulsory purchase so as to obtain possession of the land for future housing needs. By the end of the period it was obvious that a public inquiry would be required.

It may be possible to clear some of 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 78 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:

- External:* 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.
- Internal:* Repairing broken wall and ceiling plaster.  
Renewing floors.  
Repairing doors and windows.  
Replacing fireplaces.  
Providing improved ventilation.
- Fittings:* 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 1968

Houses Completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority	333	—	333
By any other Housing Authority	110	—	110
By private persons	—	13	13
Total	443	13	456

Total number of inhabited houses in district 15,871.

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 4,511.

### CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

#### A. FORMAL ACTION

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1968 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ... .. —  
 (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 ... .. 52

#### 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 1968 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

- (a) As a result of Informal Action ... .. 78
- (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. <i>Discretionary Grants</i>						
1	Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	...	...	...	...	51
2	Applications rejected by Local Authority during year	...	...	...	...	—
3	Applications approved by Local Authority during year	...	...	...	...	51
4	Approximate average grant approved per house					£355
5	Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	...	...	...	...	308
B. <i>Standard Grants</i>						
						Total to date
1	Number of separate houses for which grants were made during year	...	...	...	...	36 159
2	Number of houses provided with:					
	(a) Bath or shower	...	...	...	...	16 106
	(b) Wash-hand basin	...	...	...	...	19 115
	(c) Hot water supply	...	...	...	...	15 105
	(d) Water closet	...	...	...	...	23 138
	(e) Foodstore	...	...	...	...	11 84

### IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

A total of 36 houses were improved during the year, 10 as a result of "Discretionary" grants and 26 "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		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Oc'piers P'cuted
(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	73	65	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	17	37	10	—
Total	91	103	11	—

### DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remed- ied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp'ctor	By H.M. Inspe'tor	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	12	10	—	1	—
Total	13	11	—	1	—

TABLE OF OUTWORKERS.

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers 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.	8	—	—	—	—	—
All other outworkers	2	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	—	—	—	—	—

## 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.

All the 15,871 houses and the total population of 48,650 persons are supplied direct from public water mains.

The Company takes regular samples at all points from the source to the point of supply, examinations 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 80 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 a specimen of water which was submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis.

I am grateful for the following report which has been kindly supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Mean</i>
pH value	7.5	6.8	7.0
Free Co.	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as Ca Co <sub>3</sub> )	120	20	80
Hardness (as Ca Co <sub>3</sub> )			
Total	170	70	125
Carbonate	120	20	80
Non-Carbonate	80	30	45
Calcium	120	40	80
Magnesium	55	25	45
Chlorides (as Cl)	24	10	16
Sulphates (as So <sub>4</sub> )	65	35	50
Silica (as Si O <sub>2</sub> )	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	0.3	<0.1	0.2
Iron (as Fe)	0.20	<0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre.

This is river-derived water the composition of which can vary from time to time. The maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

#### 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.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The District is well served with an adequate sewerage system. The disposal of sewage is eventually discharged into the River Tyne on one hand and into the North Sea by way of the Seaton Valley Joint Sewerage Board on the other.

#### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Only 1 premise is provided with a privy closet, 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.

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.

## DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Action was needed under this heading during 1968, 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. Specimens were taken for bacteriological examination during the year.

#### SCRAP METAL DEALERS

Two premises were registered during the period.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT

One shop is licensed in the area.

#### 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 249 premises were on the register. All newly registered premises received a general inspection and in all 326 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	3	49	12
Retail Shops	14	156	83
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	8	8
Catering establishments open to the public—canteens	1	32	21
Fuel storage depots	—	4	3
TOTALS	20	249	127

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act 326.

(B) ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS.

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 49	13	Sitting facilities 1
5	Overcrowding —	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) —
6	Temperature 18	15	Eating facilities —
7	Ventilation 3	16	Floors, passage & stairs 37
8	Lighting 13	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery 8
9	Sanitary Conveniences 25	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery —
10	Washing facilities 11	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous mach. —
11	Supply of Drinking Water —	23	Prohibition of heavy work —
12	Clothing Accommodation 1	24	First Aid General Prov. 17
			Other Matters 27
			<b>TOTAL 210</b>

(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	1	1			1	
Retail Shops	1	1			1	
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	4	4			4	
Catering establishments open to public, canteens						
Fuel storage depots						
TOTALS	6	6			6	

## Analysis of reported accidents.

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering establishments open to public canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery	1	1	1		
Transport					
Falls of persons					
Stepping on or striking against object or person					
Handling goods			3		
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.

### UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

A total of 3 tons 5 cwts and 54 lbs. of foodstuffs was condemned during the year on account of not being in a fit state for either sale or human consumption. This amount may seem out of all proportion for the size of the area but there are now premises in the district where large quantities of foodstuffs are held for distribution. These commodities are as follows:

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	—	—	25
Canned Meats	—	15	93
Other Canned Foods	1	—	64
Other Foods	1	8	96
TOTAL	3	5	54

### 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 Cream
Meat Pies	Pork
Luncheon Meat	Tinned Ham
Sliced Meats	

### 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:

- 33 Dealers' licences to retail pasteurised milk.
- 62 Dealers' licences to retail sterilised milk.
- 7 Dealers' licences to retail untreated milk.

### MILK SAMPLING

13 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.

65 specimens of pasteurised milk were examined to prove efficient pasteurisation and cleanliness. One result for cleanliness was unsatisfactory.

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

In the case of untreated milk, altogether 18 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.

Further to a report being received concerning evidence of salmonella in calves a complete check was carried out on a herd in the area. Altogether 34 samples of milk were obtained, these were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, the results proving negative.

Tests were also extended to the employees for the presence of carriers, fortunately none were found.

#### DISEASE FROM MILK

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

#### ICE CREAM

There is one licensed ice cream manufacturer 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.

89 samples were obtained for examination, of these 85 were classified grade I, this being highly satisfactory, the other 4 being placed in grade IV.

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

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

#### MEAT INSPECTION

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

There are no Poultry Processing premises within the District.

#### FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD

Various commodities were encountered containing foreign bodies as under:

Commodity	Foreign Body	Remarks
Meat (2)	Maggots	
Pasties	Mould	
Potato Crisps	Wood	
Cakes	Mould	
Bread (4)	Insect and Mould	
Milk Bottles (3)	Glass and Dirt	

In 6 cases proceedings were instituted under section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and one under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, all prosecutions were successful involving fines and costs of £141.

#### FOOD HYGIENE

227 inspections were made under this heading during 1968 though no prosecutions were taken many informal notices were sent to proprietors drawing attention to offences against the Food Hygiene Regulations.

#### FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

The following table contains details of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them.

Category of Trade	No. of premises	No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. of premises to which Regulation 19 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Licensed Premises	50	50	45	45
Cafes & Canteens	16	16	16	16
Bakeries	4	4	4	4
Grocers	22	22	22	22
Greengrocers	17	17	17	17
Butchers	20	20	20	20
Confectioners	40	39	25	25
Fishmongers (including Fried)	10	10	10	10
General Dealers	55	55	52	51
TOTALS	234	233	211	210

#### FOOD POISONING

One case was notified during 1968. The organism being responsible was salmonella typhi-murium.

#### THE SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The following food and drugs samples were taken during 1968 by the department's inspectors. All were analysed by the Public Analyst:

Meat Pies (4)	Cooking Salt
Mussels (6)	Blackberries
Steak Minced Pie (3)	Sterilised Cream
Syrup of Figs (2)	Lemonade Powder
Cheshire Cheese (2)	Tomato Puree
Walnut Ice Cream (2)	Apricot Nectar
Fish Cakes (2)	Panadeine Tablets
Cheese Spread (2)	Minced Steak with Gravy
Margo Chutney	Fruit Topping
Chocolate Spread	Mustard
Fresh Cream Cakes (2)	Gravy Mix
Orange Kiora	Concentrated Orange Drink
Potted Meat	Instant Milk
Sausage (Pork)	Flour
Oxo Cubes	Margarine
Mince Pie	Sausage (Beef)

In addition to the above samples, samples of Oxtail and Vegetable Infant Food and untreated milk were obtained and examined for the presence of residual pesticides. These analyses were acceptable.

One sample of minced beef pie contained only 12.1% 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 and Drewry Ltd., of Letchworth, details being:

Vehicle	Year	Type	Capacity	Fuel
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
PNL 243 G	1968	Compression	60 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 recommended 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, 1968 (Registrar General's estimate) ... ..	48,650 persons
Total refuse collected ... ..	23,000 tons
What percentage of total refuse collected (tons) is weighed ... ..	—%
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) ... ..	25.9 cwts.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected ... ..	17,863
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 off:					
(i)	Council's own refuse	...	...	...	23,000 tons
(ii)	for other local authorities	...	...	...	10,000 tons
(iii)	total	...	...	...	33,000 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)	...	...	...	—%
					100%

#### Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage

					<i>Income</i>	<i>Tonnage Collected</i>
(a)	Raw kitchen waste	...	...	...	—	—
(b)	Scrap metal	...	...	...	—	—
(c)	Waste paper	...	...	...	£6250	650
(d)	Other salvage	...	...	...	50	1
					£6,300	651
(e)	Totals	...	...	...		

#### Trade Refuse

(a)	Income	...	...	...	...	£1,200
(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 £6,250. This provides added employment, leaves a profit for the Council and saves having to deposit some 650 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 ...		20	58	10	
Business ... ..		84	233	22	8
HOUSES	L.A. ...	334	533	72	20
	Private ...	369	533	111	9
Agri-cultural	Allotments ...	23	35	4	
	Others ...	2	3		
Totals... ..		832	1395	219	37

Bodies recovered : 127 Rats and 29 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 ... ..	14	189	14	189
Infectious Disease Fumigations ...	1	5	1	5
Woodworm... ..	6	—	6	—
Fleas ... ..	2	4	2	4
Wasps ... ..	—	9	—	9
Clover Mites ... ..	2	5	2	5
Blow Flies ... ..	—	5	—	5
Bees... ..	1	3	1	3
Mosquitoes ... ..	—	1	—	1
Silver Fish ... ..	1	2	1	2
Cluster Flies ... ..	—	2	—	2
Bed Bugs ... ..	2	—	2	—
Cockroaches ... ..	166	33	165	32
Clothes Moth ... ..	—	1	—	1
Lice ... ..	—	2	—	2
Plaster Beetle ... ..	1	2	1	2
Ground Beetle ... ..	4	—	4	—
House Flies ... ..	1	—	1	—
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>262</b>

## 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 February, the lowest was 20 in August, these figures are expressed in micrograms per cubic metre of air. For sulphur dioxide the corresponding figures were 199 in December and 16 in June.

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, 1968.

MONTH	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Micrograms per cubic metre.			micrograms per cubic metre.		
	Monthly Average.	Highest daily Average.	Lowest daily Average.	Monthly Average.	Highest daily Average.	Lowest daily Average.
January ...	143	435	48	68	280	24
February ...	181	261	47	72	136	25
March ...	131	561	37	58	161	29
April ...	91	181	10	55	89	27
May ...	76	118	26	29	71	11
June ...	46	107	18	16	63	6
July ...	62	108	23	17	42	6
August ...	20	35	7	51	89	20
September ...	96	264	40	19	35	7
October ...	42	496	46	33	79	7
November ...	160	351	36	141	79	18
December ...	44	139	14	199	301	61

TABLE INDICATING THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF INSPECTIONS—1968

HOUSING

Individual Unfit Properties	...	...	...	...	...	70
Defects	...	...	...	...	...	241
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	274
Slum Clearance	...	...	...	...	...	680
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	8
						———— 1,273

PUBLIC HEALTH

Defects	...	...	...	...	...	513
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	361
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	95
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	34
Infectious Disease (including Fumigation)	...	...	...	...	...	99
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	27
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	...	...	258
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	77
Smoke Control	...	...	...	...	...	31
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	186
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	25
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	10
Disinfestation and Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	2,011
Civic Amenities Act	...	...	...	...	...	100
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	1
						———— 3,828

FOOD AND DRUGS

Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	...	227
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	178
Food Vans	...	...	...	...	...	43
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	133
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	36
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	55
Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	258
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	50
						———— 980

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection and Disposal ... ..	424
Salvage ... ..	145
Dustbins ... ..	115
Scrap Metal Dealers ... ..	6
	<hr/> 690
FACTORIES ACT ... ..	103
OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT ...	326
PETROLEUM ACTS ... ..	2
MISCELLANEOUS ... ..	357
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<hr/> 7,559 <hr/>

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.*





