

[Report 1967] / Medical Officer of Health, Witham U.D.C.

Contributors

Witham (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1967

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nmgnabzb>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1967

together with the

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BRAINTREE, DUNMOW AND WITHAM
COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICTS

*With the Compliments
of
The Medical Officer of Health*

Public Health Offices
Town Hall
Braintree

Braintree
226

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1967-1968

Chairman:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett.

Members:

Councillor T.R. Mott, M.B.E. (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor R.V.C. Brown.

Councillor A.G. Eldridge.

Councillor L.J. King.

Councillor Mrs. J.M. Lyon.

Councillor W.A. Marsh (ex-officio)

Councillor A. McKirdy.

Councillor A.E. Moss, J.P.

Councillor Mrs. P.L. Roberts.

Councillor S.E. Smith, J.P. Chairman of the Council
(ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

E.H.C. Wadhams, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. Stedman, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

A.G.G. Onibiyo

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. S.A. Slater, Secretary-Shorthand/Typist

Miss N.F. Shelley, Shorthand/Typist

Part-time General Assistant:

A.W. Jay

Refuse/Sewage Disposal Manager:

T.C. Thorpe (Retired December 1967)


H.A. Diaper, M.R.S.H. (from December 1967)

Assistant Manager:

H.A. Diaper, M.R.S.H. (to December 1967)

Fitter/Relief Manager:

R. Coupe (from December 1967)



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30287261>

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree, Essex.

November 1968

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report for 1967 on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Witham Urban District. Included in this report you will find also information and statistics about the health services which are provided by the Essex County Council and I am grateful to Dr. Miller Wood for providing these figures.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's estimated population is 11,780 an increase of 900 on 1966. This big jump was expected and of course is mainly due to the arrival of so many families from London as part of the Witham expansion scheme and further large transfers can be expected over the next few years.

As most of these new-comers are young or middle aged we may expect an increase in the number of babies and young children over the next decade or so and this will call for augmented welfare, school and sanitary services.

For 1967, 236 live births were recorded giving a birth rate of 20.8 per 1,000 estimated population.

There were 112 deaths giving a corrected death rate of 8.6 per 1,000 estimated population.

The birth rate is slightly higher than the average figures for England and Wales and the death rate appreciably lower.

There was only one infant death recorded: it was due to prematurity.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1967 was a very slack year for infectious disease, indeed the total of 37 is exactly the same as in 1960 which was a record low figure. In the year under review there were 25 cases of measles, one of pulmonary tuberculosis, one of dysentery and 4 of infective hepatitis. It is almost commonplace now to report a clean sheet for diphtheria and poliomyelitis but this happy state of affairs will only continue if parents are diligent in seeing that their children are immunised.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

These services were carried on as in previous years by the family doctors and at the Essex County Council clinics. Full statistics are given later in this report and it would appear that the Witham children are pretty adequately protected, e.g. 207 received the triple vaccine of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus and 236 births were recorded.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

This section has been adequately covered by Mr. Wadhams in his usual efficient way.

You will note that in spite of the rapid expansion of the town all the main services, i.e. water, sewage treatment and refuse disposal have been well maintained.

This is very satisfactory as far as it goes but of equal importance is the stress laid on the need to enlarge the various services to cope with the town's increased population.

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for the help and interest they have given me and to your Chief Public Health Inspector, his staff and my colleagues in other Departments for their courteous co-operation at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham, Essex.

November 1968

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of my Department's work during the year 1967.

1967 saw the town expansion scheme well in progress, the first estate of 440 houses being almost fully occupied by the end of the year and a start made on the first part of the second such estate, while the Council were negotiating for the commencement of the large third projected estate to commence during 1968. Progress on the Witham sewage works contract was good and there was every reason to expect the new plant to come into operation mid-way through 1968. The re-organised refuse collection service coped adequately with the continuous increase in work, assisted by the operation of a large capacity compaction vehicle equipped to cope with standard dustbins, paper sacks or special large capacity containers. Numbers of factories on the new industrial estates were completed and the Council was pursuing negotiations for the inclusion of additional land for industrial purposes in the town map. Private house building continued throughout the year on two major estates and a number of smaller development schemes, while the private re-development of a section of the town shopping centre made good progress. Negotiations were continued relating to the development of the highways, education and health services in line with the town's development programme, and a scheme for augmenting the town's water supply was in preparation.

Some further residential development was commenced in the village community of Silver End following installation of effluent polishing facilities at the sewage works there. The overload on this plant is however such that no extensive development can take place at Silver End until a major scheme of sewage disposal is carried out. The proposal for bringing the whole of the Silver End sewage to Witham for treatment has already been approved by the Council in principle.

The routine work of the Public Health Department has been maintained and extended throughout the year. Work on repair, reconditioning and improvement of existing house property continues and food administration has been given

considerable attention. A reasonable programme of sampling of water, food, stream and surface water, sewage effluent and trade wastes has been adopted and the Department's other services of pest control, salvage, cesspool emptying and derelict vehicle disposal maintained and developed. Nevertheless it must be admitted that the work of the Department has suffered to some extent because of lack of sufficient staff to cope with the increasing calls made upon it, and it is hoped that this position may be remedied at an early date.

It would be remiss of me to close this introduction without reference to the wonderful service rendered to the Council by Mr. T. Thorpe who retired from the post of Sewage Works Manager in December 1967 after 26 years' service. His loyalty and devotion to his work was such as is not always encountered. His intimate knowledge of sewage disposal and lifetime's experience in local authority work was to a very large extent responsible for the Department's success in maintaining satisfactory sewage disposal during the years when the Witham plant was unavoidably and grossly overloaded. I am pleased to record that Mr. Thorpe's connection with the Department will be maintained in a part-time capacity.

I must refer also to the work of my Deputy and office staff and to accord my appreciation of the sterling support I have received from them all. Without it the Department could not function as efficiently as it does. I must also acknowledge the ready assistance I have received from the Clerk, the Surveyor and the other officers of the Council, and my appreciation of the confidence which the Council and particularly the Public Health Committee have shown in supporting the work of the Department. By no means least I must mention the work of the manual staff on the sewage and refuse services who have again maintained a first-class record throughout the year. My thanks are due to them for their willing acceptance of the changes that have been introduced and their readiness to cope with any difficulty or emergency that may arise.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	7,329
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	11,780
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,219
Rateable value	...	...	...	£657,330.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£2,840.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	223	121	102	
Illegitimate	13	7	6	
Total live births -	236			
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	20.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births				5.5
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.04				20.8
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population				17.2

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	4	2	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		...	...	17.0
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales		...	...	14.8
Total live and still births -	240			

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	1	-
Total infant deaths -	1		

INFANT MORTALITY

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	...	4.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	Nil
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	...	76.9
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	... ..	4.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week 1,000 total live births)	... ..	4.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	21.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births		18.3

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	Nil

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
	112	75	37	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population		...	...	9.5
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.91			...	8.6
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales			...	11.2

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1967

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	2	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	9
18. Coronary disease, angina	18	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
20. Other heart disease	1	3
21. Other circulatory disease	1	2
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	5	4
24. Bronchitis	4	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34. All other accidents	2	-
35. Suicide	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All Causes	75	37

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

			<u>Attendances</u>
Child Welfare	1st and 3rd Tuesdays	10 a.m.)	1,814
	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m.)	
School Clinic	1st and 3rd Thursdays	9 a.m.	119
Dental	Every Tuesday and Thursday	10 a.m.	813
		(By Appt.)	
Speech Therapy	Every Tuesday	(By Appt.)	332

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Welfare	1st Friday	2 p.m.	467
---------------	------------	--------	-----

RIVENHALL Church Hall.

Child Welfare	3rd Monday	2 p.m.	198
---------------	------------	--------	-----

(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every 4th Tuesday morni

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-
Measles	25	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	1	1	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-
Totals	37	1	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	25	15	1	-	1	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1

Totals	37	22	3	-	1	-	5	3	-	-	2	-	1
--------	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages											Under 1 year										
	1	2	3	4	5	9	14	15	19	20	34	35	44	45	64	65 & over	Age unknown					
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Measles	25	-	1	4	2	8	9	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1					
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-					
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Whooping Cough	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					
Totals	37	-	2	4	2	11	11	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1					

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the one case of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	187	20	207
Diphtheria and Tetanus	2	21	23
Diphtheria	-	6	6
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	1	58	59
Poliomyelitis	184	78	262
Smallpox	159	-	159
B.C.G.	-	138	138
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	38	20	58
Diphtheria and Tetanus	35	111	146
Diphtheria	2	127	129
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	4	129	133
Poliomyelitis	21	173	194
Smallpox	4	-	4

HOUSING

A total of 296 new dwellings were completed in the urban district during the year, an increase of 38 over 1966. Of these, 250 were provided by the Council and 46 by private enterprise.

The 250 houses built by the Council were all houses for "overspill" tenants. It was hoped that this estate ("Templars") would have been finished by the end of this year, but at 31st December there remained 70 houses to be completed. By the end of 1967 a start had been made on the building of the second (Phase IIIa) estate, and also another "Houses for Sale" estate of some 177 units.

The number of dwellings erected in the Urban District since 1945 is as follows:-

By Local Authority:	1271 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows and 77 Houses for Sale)
By Private Enterprise:	813

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1967 was 208 compared with 192 at the end of 1966. The lists were composed of the following categories at 31st December 1967:-

Ordinary list	-	57
Exchange list	-	-
Old Persons Bungalows	-	45
Bungalow exchange list	-	30
Single Persons Units	-	15
Engaged Couples list	-	50
River View Hostel	-	11

There is only one main waiting list, the qualification for admission to which is two years' residence or work in the Urban District. The Council has renewed its agreement with the Essex County Council, to assist in the rehousing of homeless families so far as is consistent with the Urban District's own needs.

Pre-War Council Houses

All the older (pre-1930) Council houses had been modernised by the end of 1963. Proposals for another 186 pre-war houses are in abeyance. As a matter of some urgency the Council is to undertake the re-wiring of 263 of the older houses for electric light and power to modern standards.

Housing and Public Health Acts

With regard to sub-standard private houses the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

(a) Clearance Orders:	Orders submitted	Nil
	Orders confirmed	Nil
	Houses vacated	9
	Houses demolished	10
(b) Demolition Orders:	Orders made	2
	Houses vacated	1
	Houses demolished	1
	Orders rescinded	1
(c) Closing Orders:	Orders made	4
(d) Voluntary Undertakings by owners:	Houses demolished	2
	Houses not re-occupied	6
(e) Rehousing by Local Authority:	Families rehoused	8

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition	Occupied	Nil
	Vacant	5
Houses subject to Demolition Orders	Vacant	1
Houses subject to Closing Orders:	Vacant	5
Parts of Houses subject to Closing Orders:	Vacant	7
Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let:		3

Of the 63 dwellings scheduled in the 1965-68 programme as suitable for clearance or closure, 45 have already been dealt with. The remainder are border-line cases and are to be re-examined in the light of possible reconditioning by grant aid.

Housing Acts 1949-1964
Improvement Grants

During the year a further 14 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant are as follows:-

	<u>1949-59</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Submitted	28	7	-	1	2	9	-	-	4
Granted	28	7	-	-	2	9	-	-	4
Refused	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Withdrawn	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Schemes completed	25	-	5	-	-	5	3	2	-

There were 4 schemes outstanding at the end of 1967.

Details of applications received for Standard Grants since their inception in 1959 are as follows:-

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Submitted	6	12	22	11	6	17	25	19	10
Granted	6	12	22	11	6	17	25	19	10
Withdrawn	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Schemes completed	-	11	13	21	9	7	18	13	19
Outstanding at 31 Dec.	6	6	15	5	2	9	16	22	12

Compulsory Improvements: Housing Act 1964

One small area comprising four houses was declared an Improvement Area. Compulsory improvement under the Act was also set in motion in respect of one other house. A survey to establish the number of dwellings capable of improvement to one or other of the standards was in progress at the end of the year.

Rent Act 1957: Certificates of Disrepair

Advice was given to a number of tenants and landlords, but no applications for certificates were received.

Housing Act 1961: Houses in Multiple Occupation

Provision of additional amenities for each occupying family was secured in two houses of this kind, without statutory action.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

(a)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	64
(b)	Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(c)	Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	33

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

(a)	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers)	23
(b)	Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers)	48

Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-64
Public Health Acts 1936-61:

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	7
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice	7

WATER SUPPLY

The supply position remains as in previous years, the Council supplementing its own Bradwell Spring source by water purchased from the South Essex Water Company, whose trunk main from Abberton skirts the Urban District. The proposal for the Council to transfer its undertaking to this Company, previously referred to, is in abeyance.

The quality of both supplies is consistently satisfactory, as shown by frequent analysis. Increasing demand and town development requirements have led to slight difficulty with lack of pressure in parts of the area and are to be met by the provision of a new large capacity high level reservoir.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Mains Water</u>			
Chemical	12	-	12
Bacteriological	24	-	24
<u>Other Supplies</u>			
Chemical	3	1	4
Bacteriological	32	24	56

The unsatisfactory water samples were taken from two private supplies. In the first case, pollution of the private ram supply was found to be due to drainage from a nearby farm pond, and was rectified by connection to mains supply. In the second case, deterioration was due to inadequate maintenance in the area of the ram supply.

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

Bradwell Springs Supply (21.11.67)

"The water is exceedingly hard in character but contains no excess of saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic quality and is also of satisfactory bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes, apart from the disadvantage of the hardness for uses with soap."

Mixed Public Supply (21.11.67)

"The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses."

The fluoride content of the Bradwell water is less than 0.1 p.p.m., whereas that of the South Essex supply varies between 0.17 and 0.3 p.p.m. Also the Bradwell supply exhibits slight corrosive tendencies due to its

content of free carbon dioxide. This shows itself in the early discolouration of metal cooking utensils on new estates fitted with copper water services and lasts only until the systems have acquired a protective film. Both supplies are very hard in character. Neither is plumbo-solvent.

House Connections, etc.

Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District	4219
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply ..	4199
Estimated population so served	11713
Number of separate dwellings connected to main during the year ...	292
Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe on mains supply .	1
Estimated population so served	2
Number of separate dwellings having internal piped supply other than mains	19
Estimated population so served	65

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

3"	910 yards
4"	204 yards
6"	220 yards

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being brought into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following figures of the total water supplied from the Council's mains during the year:-

1. Bradwell Springs:-	
(a) To Silver End (estimated)	44,009,000 gallons
(b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated).	86,217,000 gallons
2. South Essex Water Company	134,583,500 gallons
3. ex Braintree R.D.C. Main (Bradwell)	6,900 gallons
	<hr/>
	264,816,400 gallons
	<hr/> <hr/>

Average consumption per head per day:-

Domestic demand	38.53 gallons
Trade demand	26.85 gallons
Total consumption per head per day	65.39 gallons

The total consumption per head per day shows a rise of 5.2% on the previous year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 289 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1967 were as follows:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4121
Houses drained to septic tanks, cesspools, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Houses drained to ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses without drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>—</u>
									<u>4219</u>

Sewer Systems

There are four trunk sewer systems in the Urban District, three of which serve the high and low levels of the town, and the industrial area respectively. The fourth is a new low level system (as yet unused) designed to relieve the surcharge on the present low level system and to provide for the drainage of the town development schemes. It is expected that this will come into operation during mid-1968.

In addition a scheme has been prepared for a further major trunk sewer to be laid from Silver End to Witham, but this is temporarily in abeyance. (See also "Silver End Sewage Works")

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year:-

Foul Sewers:

6"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	375 yds.
9"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200 yds.

Surface Water Sewers:

6"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	375 yds.
9"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200 yds.
12"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180 yds.
15"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300 yds.
18"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110 yds.
21"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180 yds.
24"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	330 yds.
27"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160 yds.
30"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120 yds.
36"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180 yds.

Except for one small section, all sewer systems gravitate to their respective outfalls.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned and operated by the Council. These three serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works is owned and operated privately, for part of the year only: it was formerly a Ministry of Works plant serving an aerodrome (later a displaced persons camp), but it is now used to purify the waste effluent from a large pea vining plant.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS

This plant has been described in previous reports. Designed for a flow of 250,000 gallons per day it now receives upwards of double that amount in dry weather, with considerably higher flows during wet periods due to the larger part of the town of Witham being ~~sewered~~ on the combined system. To cope with this overload and the rapid expansion of the town by overspill development, a contract for extension of the plant to deal initially with dry weather flows up to 1,000,000 gallons per day was commenced during 1966. The first section of the new plant is expected to be ready for operation early in 1968 and the contract is due for completion before 1969. These extensions will deal with the sewage flow from a population of 17,500, though provision is being made now for sludge dewatering, pumping requirements and administration block adequate for further extensions of the plant to the ultimate development plant population of about 25,000.

As described in previous reports, the need to maintain a satisfactory standard of effluent from the present overloaded plant has been met very successfully by the provision of an effluent polishing lagoon. This lagoon, of rather less than three days' capacity, has been in use for nearly seven years and is still achieving radical improvement in effluent quality in spite of the ever increasing flow. It is hoped to be able to retain it for experimental use when the new plant is complete with a view to its possible inclusion as a permanent feature of the future disposal system.

Difficulty of sludge drying, referred to in the 1966 report, continued during 1967, when owing to new plant being installed on parts of the sludge drying area, recourse had to be made to large earth lagoons on the perimeter of the works. The deodoriser spray system was extended to cover this area, but nevertheless complaints of offensive odours from the drying sludge were received from time to time during the summer months. Similar trouble will probably occur during the spring and early summer of 1968, after which a vacuum-drum sludge dewatering plant will replace the open sludge beds and lagoons.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS

This plant, also overloaded, but hitherto producing reasonably satisfactory results, failed to do so during 1967, though not by very wide margins.

Early in the year, the Council approved the line of a new trunk sewer designed to bring Silver End sewage, some 120,000 gallons per day in dry weather, to the extended Witham plant for treatment. It was felt that in the long run this proposal would prove more satisfactory economically and administratively than the extension of the Silver End plant. Unfortunately, the sewer scheme has had to be shelved for the time being, and as an interim measure the Council have embarked on the provision of tertiary treatment in the shape of three effluent lagoons, each of one day's dry weather flow capacity, in series, to improve the effluent quality to an acceptable standard. Also, if possible, it is hoped with this improvement, to allow some further residential development, now deferred under planning agreement, to take place.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS

This is a small plant serving the village area of Rivenhall Oak and Rivenhall End. The plant is operating at more than the designed capacity of 18,000 gallons per day. It occasionally shows signs that insufficient margin of capacity now remains for consistently high standards to be achieved. It will probably require a certain amount of improvement in the near future to restore it to full efficiency.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS

As stated above, this plant is now used for treatment of pea vining waste, and as the season for this is very short, it is out of use for the major part of the year. Prior to the commencement of the pea vining the plant is 'seeded' with sewage and sludge from the U.D.C. sewage works, to produce the biological conditions necessary to break down the very strong waste which is produced in the vining process.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Witham Sewage Works	17	6	23
Silver End Sewage Works	5	5	10
Rivenhall Sewage Works	2	1	3
	<u>24</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>36</u>

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES

Close control of the large quantities of industrial effluent discharged to sewer has been maintained continuously since 1949. In the majority of cases, following estimation of rates and strength of flow and agreement as to means of pre-treatment where required, the discharges are measured by recording instruments installed by the Council. These indicate the extent to which such discharges comply with the quantitative terms of the Council's agreements with the various companies, whilst periodic sampling for chemical analysis checks the observance of the qualitative conditions. A number of such agreements, in the terms allowed by the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937, as extended by the Public Health Act 1961, are now in force and under negotiation.

The types of trade effluents being discharged to the Council's sewers are as follows:-

Metal Processing: Various:	3 main discharges.
Dairy wastes:	2 discharges.
Poultry Packing:	1 discharge.
Fruit Pulping and concentrate:	1 discharge.
Maltings:	1 discharge.
Etching and Engraving:	1 discharge.
Electronics Engineering:	2 discharges.

20 samples of trade waste were submitted for laboratory analysis for routine trade waste examination or as spot samples for special examination.

Odour production in one sewer system due to fermented malting waste again occurred intermittently during the year and one major failure at the same plant, allowing very great quantities of steeped grain to pass to sewer, led to critical conditions at the sewage works. Following clearance of the massed grain from the treatment plant, provision was made at the Maltings to prevent any recurrence of this nature.

An ancillary service provided by the Council to assist those industries which in pre-treatment of trade effluents produce large quantities of sludge, is a tanker disposal service for this material. This has operated for some 17 years and during 1967 about 30,000 gallons of various industrial sludges were removed each week from local factories and disposed of at the Council's refuse tip. The cost is, of course, borne by the industries concerned.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

The weekly collection of house refuse from all parts of the Urban District was maintained during the year. The incentive bonus scheme, started in March 1965 to overcome difficulty in obtaining labour for this service, continued successfully in its double object of attracting and keeping an adequate labour force, and coping with the additional collection work. A considerable increase in the number of premises to be served has been absorbed without appreciable increase in collection staff. The average weekly bonus per man has amounted to about £4.10s.0d. Adjustment is, of course, made as and when collection work becomes too great for the present staff and an additional man has to be allocated to some part of the collection round, but this is a gradual process, and the bonus figure is not unduly diminished by it.

The paper sack system was further extended during 1967, by the end of which time 440 new houses were being serviced with this system. No conversions from bin collection have yet taken place, nor are they envisaged until the sack system has been applied to a large proportion of the new development now under construction. The experience to date indicates that the system fulfils the claims made for it in the matters of hygiene and ease of removal. Some householders, however, have found one paper sack, even of the larger $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet capacity, inadequate to hold a week's refuse. The increasing bulk of house refuse has also been noted in those areas served with dustbins. This is particularly true of new estates on which facilities for burning refuse are not available. There seems no doubt that future households are going to produce a greater bulk of refuse than the standard dustbin can contain, and this is a further argument in favour of the paper sack system.

A new 35 cu. yd. rear-loading vehicle, with bulk bin lift attachment, was purchased during the year, to replace an old side-loading machine of limited capacity. The collection fleet now comprises two compressor rear-loading machines and a small (one-man) side loader, with a fore-and-aft rear-loading vehicle in reserve.

Disposal

Controlled tipping was maintained on the Council's marshland site adjoining the sewage works and within the confluence of the rivers Blackwater and Brain. Here some 15 acres of marshland, acquired in 1963 to supplement other riverside land already in the Council's possession, will meet the requirements of the district for the next 2-3 years. Town development to the ultimate population proposed, however, will require additional disposal facilities. Consideration is being given to the possibility of a refuse separation and pulverising plant linked to the new sewage works, in which sewage sludge and pulverised refuse can be combined in an innocuous form for unrestricted tipping and land reclamation.

At the same time it would be possible to compost part of the plant's output, should a sufficient demand prove to exist.

At present the levelling and covering of the tipped refuse is effected by means of a 1 cubic yard mechanical shovel digger, which is also used for excavation and covering work elsewhere.

SALVAGE

The following table shows slight increases over 1966-67 in both tonnage and income, though it will be noted that paper prices dropped slightly, this being offset by better terms being obtained for scrap metal.

Salvage is collected mainly on the normal refuse collection rounds, except for one special round serving the town shops. There is no doubt that additional material could be obtained by extended collection methods and with the additional powered baler recently purchased it may be possible to investigate this during 1968-69. From the point of view of refuse disposal, considerable saving of valuable tip space would result from a lower proportion of paper and fibreboard in the tipped refuse.

The following figures indicate the various categories of salvage collected and sold during the past two financial years:-

	1966-67				1967-68			
	Weight			Value	Weight			Value
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£. s. d.	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£. s. d.
Waste Paper	217	13	0	1996. 7. 9.	226	8	1	1996.18. 3.
Rags	4	16	2½	69. 8. 6.	4	18	3½	74. 2. 9.
Sacking		7	1	5. 6.11.		5	3	4. 6. 4.
Scrap Iron	4	6	0	18.13. 6.	2	10	1	17. 4. 9.
Non-Ferrous Metal		9	3	50. 5. 4.		16	1½	91. 6.10.
TOTALS	227	12	2½	2140. 2. 0.	234	19	2	2183.18.11.

During the year 1967-68 a bonus amounting to £217.17s.10d. was paid to the salvage staff.

DERELICT VEHICLES

The collection and disposal service for abandoned vehicles, commenced in 1965, dealt with 16 derelicts during the year, the same number as in 1966-67. The vehicles are dismantled at the refuse tip before being removed as scrap by a local dealer. Charges are made to owners, when known, for removal and disposal as scrap, but residents of the urban district are offered free disposal facilities for vehicles brought to the Council's tip. The local taxation authority is notified of the registration numbers of all vehicles disposed of in this way.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

The Council considered the new duties imposed by this Act. With regard to the provision of tip sites readily available to the public it is felt that in a small district such as Witham, a suitable alternative could be the establishment of a regular "bulky refuse" collection service, possibly carrying out 4-6 complete tours of the district per year. This had already been considered by the Council's Public Health Committee, and a successful trial collection of part of the area was made in 1966. Further trials are to be conducted with a view to setting up a permanent routine. It may be necessary in addition to provide local tipping facilities for the village of Silver End.

The Act's provisions relating to derelict vehicles can readily be applied to this Council's service described in the last section above.

CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicles during the year.

	<u>Cesspools</u>	<u>Loads</u>
Domestic emptyings (free service)	142	162
Rechargeable work	380	723
Trade Waste removal		1740

These figures show a slight drop in trade waste removal since 1966. Rechargeable work remained at the same level but free service cesspool emptying increased.

In addition to the above removal work the tanker vehicles carry out the cleansing of all district road gullies three times annually and also perform periodic sewer flushing. On a number of occasions assistance has been rendered to a neighbouring rural authority when in difficulty with sludge removal from small sewage plants. Also it has been found economic to use a tanker vehicle to bring sewage sludge from the Rivenhall sewage works to Witham for drying and disposal. It is hoped to extend this also to Silver End when the new Witham dewatering plant is in operation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A total of 2,641 visits and inspections were made during the year by the Department's Officers, as follows:-

Housing and Public Health Acts: (Dwelling houses)	Demolition or Closure	33
	Reconditioning and Repair	172
	Improvement Grants	87
	Overcrowding, Council house applications	19
	Nuisance conditions	121
	Caravans, Moveable dwellings	33
	Multiple occupation	11
Other Public Health Act Matters:	Drainage and Sewerage	118
	Noxious fumes, effluvia	39
	Offensive accumulations	5
	Keeping of animals	13
Food and Drugs Acts:	Food preparation premises	54
	Restaurants and Cafes	19
	Licensed Premises	28
	Other food shops	54
	Milk and Dairies	15
	Ice Cream Vendors	36
	Food Stalls and Vehicles	21
	Poultry Packing premises	262
	Food Samples examined: Ice Cream	14
	Other Foods	59
Water Supply:	Inspection and investigation	24
	Samples examined: Chemical	16
	Bacteriological	80
	Surface water, rivers and streams	7
Sewage Disposal:	Sewage disposal plants	133
	Cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets	32
	Drainage of Trade Premises	34
	Samples examined: Sewage/effluent/trade waste	56
Refuse Collection and Disposal:	Complaints, visits, surveys, etc.	184
	Vehicle repair and maintenance	20
	Salvage	42
	Refuse tips and pits	36
	Derelict vehicles, Scrap Metal Dealers	39
Clean Air Act:	Visits and inspections	53
	Plans submitted, chimney heights assessed	16
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises:	Visits	36
	Surveys	78
	Factories and Workshops	105
	Control of Damage by Pests	66
	Pet Animals	7
	Noise Abatement	27
	Schools	19
	Infectious Disease Prevention	28
	Miscellaneous	55
	Interviews	235

Nuisances, etc. on Books, with Number of Notices Served
Public Health Acts only

Number of Notices outstanding, 31st December 1966	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Intimation Notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	67
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Notices complied with during the year	...	...	...	...	71
Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1967	...	...	...	...	14

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

Dampness, rising and penetrative	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.Ps. etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Defective ceilings and walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective doors, windows and floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective W.C. structures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Inadequate means for disposal of surface water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective yard surface	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Absence/defective conditions of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Offensive accumulations and conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive smells/noise/fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Infestations: Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	405
Vermin and insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

During the year, a total of 67 visits were paid to factories, which figure does not include visits to food premises also classified as factories, as these are dealt with elsewhere. The majority of inspections were to newly established premises on the two industrial estates, and numbers of minor initial infringements were readily rectified by the managements concerned. The number of outworkers in the district, after dropping to nil at the end of 1966, began to increase again with the employment of women at their own homes by a few of the newly established firms.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	1	6	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	67	85	4	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	13	14	5	Nil
	81	105	9	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	2	3	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	7	-	4	-

Continuous checks are maintained on factory noise emission, and the possibility of nuisance from smell and dust.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

For many years the Council has maintained a small caravan site with space for 12 trailer caravans, equipped with the basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities. Electricity supply is available to each occupier. Consideration has been given to the replacement of this site by a larger modern one, but this scheme has had to be deferred because of cost and difficulty in finding a suitable location.

Two private sites within the district are occupied by members of the Showman's Guild during the permitted winter months and standards here are satisfactory. As to be expected in an area of active development, numerous individual trailer caravans have been sited in the district for varying periods by personnel attached to building and civil engineering contractors carrying out development schemes. In addition, a number of caravan dwellers station their vans on local farms for varying periods during the cropping season, carrying out casual work for the farmers. Gypsy travellers also pass through the district during the summer months.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

All the premises previously registered under the Act have been inspected. Additional new registrations have brought the total at December 1967 to the figure of 126. Follow-up visits and surveys were conducted at 78 of these premises. 25 contraventions of various requirements of the Act were rectified without necessity for formal action.

Remarks in the 1965 and 1966 reports concerning lack of notification of accidents apply equally to 1967. During the year only one accident was reported, involving the operation of a fork-lift truck. Comments on the design of the truck were passed to the makers and to H.M. Factory Inspector. Undoubtedly more accidents do occur than are notified, but it is only when a serious one occurs that the protective provisions of this Act are adequately appreciated by the firms and personnel concerned.

SHOPS ACTS

With the repeal of the sanitary and welfare provisions of the Shops Act 1950 on their replacement by the wider provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, no duties remain to the District Council under this legislation. The Essex County Council continue to operate the unrepealed provisions of the Act as the Shops Act authority for this area. They are, of course, also responsible for enforcement of the Hours of Closing Orders and the requirements for the employment of young persons, etc.

RODENT AND OTHER PEST CONTROL

The Witham Council is a full member of the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee. The Committee's operatives undertake all disinfection work in the district, including disinfection of agricultural holdings under annual contract.

The number of such contracts for 1967 was 13, one less than in 1966. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered, and has been extended to include wasps and other insect pests.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Inspections made	200 (164)	13 (14)
Treatment visits	392 (244)	91 (91)
Infestations found: Mice	66 (15)	- (-)
Rats (Major)	6 (10)	- (-)
Rats (Minor)	320 (139)	13 (14)

Routine test-baiting of the sewer systems was maintained, and block treatment effected in one area of older-type development.

Other Pests

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	...	74 (24)
Bees	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 (3)
Ants	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 (-)
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (1)
Cats	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (-)

In each case, the figures in brackets are those for the previous year, 1966.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses within the Urban District. Checks were carried out periodically to ensure that all meat entering the area was inspected at its place of origin.

Poultry Packing

A packing station where poultry are slaughtered and prepared for food is not a slaughterhouse in the legal sense, but is controlled by the Food Hygiene Regulations governing food preparation generally. Daily inspections are maintained by the Department at the two Witham packing stations, special scrutiny

being given to birds rejected by the plant staff for abnormality. Unfit birds are wholly or partly condemned, according to the conditions found. The services of the Ministry of Health Laboratory at Chelmsford are utilised for pathological identification and differentiation of obscure conditions.

MILK AND DAIRIES

All registration and licensing of dairies and other milk premises, producers, dairymen and distributors is now the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at 31st December 1967:-

	<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>
Dairies (3)	3	3	2
Dealers (9)	9	9	4

Six samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, one of which proved to be of unsatisfactory standard.

ICE CREAM

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1959. The number of registrations at 31st December 1967 was:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors only	47
Registered premises	47

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Ice-Cream Sampling

Ice-Cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. Fourteen such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

Bacteriologist's Description	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading				Total
	I	II	III	IV	
Satisfactory	8	-	-	-	8
Passable	-	3	3	-	6
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	3	3	-	14

FOOD HYGIENE

The number of premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

Residential Hotels	4
Restaurants	6
Factory and School Canteens	12
Manufacturing Butchers	5
Fried Fish Shops	1
Retail Wet Fish Shops	2
Retail Butchers' Shops	8
Supermarkets	3
Other Retail Food Shops	54
Licensed Premises and Clubs	21
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Station	1
Poultry and Egg Producers	1

A number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 589 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory, but in a number of cases attention was called to defects in premises and operation requiring to be rectified.

Prosecutions

A number of infringements of the various Food Hygiene Regulations were discovered during the year. In most cases these were of a minor character and were readily rectified on representation to the firms and persons responsible. In one case however, a firm was prosecuted in respect of serious offences against the requirements relating to delivery vehicles. Fines and costs amounting to £25.5s.0d. were imposed.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat)

Considerable quantities of food are voluntarily surrendered by local traders for condemnation. The quantity thus dealt with in 1967, 14 cwts. 3 qr 7 lbs., was much less than in 1966, when very large numbers of broiler poultry had to be condemned. The Department takes possession of all such food and ensures its proper disposal at the Council's refuse tip.

Formal Sampling: Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Essex County Council)

The chief sampling officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following information:

"The County Council as a Food and Drugs authority administers an area

covering a population of over 550,000 and is thus the largest such authority in the County.

During the year 1,479 samples of food and drugs were taken throughout the area. Of these 764 were Milk Samples of which 753 were tested at the Department's own laboratory.

The Public Analyst reported adversely upon 24 samples. Proceedings were instituted in nine instances.

In addition 2,421 pre-packed articles of food were examined by the sampling officers in the course of enforcing the Labelling of Food Order 1953 (as amended) which required ingredients to be given upon containers, and to ensure compliance with regulations controlling the use of food additives. Displays of imported food were also inspected to ensure due compliance with the requirements of the Merchandise Marks Act 1926 as to disclosures of origin. Of the above-mentioned samples, the following were procured within the Witham Urban District:-

Commodity	Taken in Witham Urban District
B.Methagne Tablets	1
British Sherry	1
Coffee	1
Drinking Chocolate	2
Orange Drink	1
Orange Juice	1
Peach Wine	1
Tea	3
TOTAL	11

Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1967

Number of samples taken: 13 (including 4 taken at Schools)."

Other Food Samples (Witham Urban District Council)

The Department submitted the following samples for bacteriological examination during the year:

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Sausages (all types)	6	1
Minced Meat	3	-
Sliced Meats	16	-
Flour confectionery	2	-
Milk	5	1
Prawns/Shrimps etc.	6	3
Spanish Salad/Cole Slaw	2	-
Chickens	19	13

Following the attention paid in 1966 to the quality of shrimps and prawns, the 1967 samples indicated that the handling and transport of these foods still left much to be desired. This investigation is to be continued during 1968.

Offences under Sections 2 and 8, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Two possible offences were reported: one in respect of a foreign body in butter, and one of mould in bread. In neither case were circumstances such as to warrant prosecution, but warning letters were sent to the firms concerned

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily smoke and sulphur dioxide recordings are maintained and the records forwarded to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the National Survey. No significant degree of pollution has been noted, except during short periods of foggy conditions, when the build-up of contaminating materials in the air, though not critical, indicates clearly the need to prevent any increase in their general concentration.

Industrial furnaces and boiler installations are inspected under the Clean Air Act provisions, and chimney heights for new premises assessed in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum. It is illogical that furnaces installed in public authority and Crown properties still do not have to submit to this control.

Two contraventions of the Clean Air Act in respect of emission of dark smoke were recorded. Remedial action was taken by managements upon representation from the Department and no formal action was necessary. Six notifications and applications for prior approval of furnace installations were received and investigated. All were granted. No instances of grit and dust emission from furnace installations occurred during the year. Eight plans were submitted showing proposed new chimneys and in each case a chimney height based on the Ministry's Memorandum was imposed by the Council. Four chimneys erected during the year were at premises outside the control of the Council under Section 10 of this Act.

No smoke control areas have been declared by the Council.

NOISE

During the year complaints were received in respect of two alleged noise nuisances. Both were confirmed and representations made to the respective managements for remedial action. Negotiations as to the necessary measures were in hand at the end of the year.

These conditions arose mainly from the operation of machinery, by reason of inadequate buffering and sound insulation, coupled with lack of adequate

ventilation during hot weather, leading to otherwise unnecessary opening of doors and windows.

The question of noise within factory premises has been raised with the Department and is being examined. Generally, to a casual visitor, factory workers are surprisingly tolerant of very high, sometimes excessive, noise levels during their working hours.

STAFF

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1967 were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector
Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector
Technical Assistant
Secretary
Shorthand-Typist
Part-time General Assistant

Sewage Disposal: 1 Works Manager
1 Fitter/Relief Manager
1 Chargehand/Plant Operator
2 Plant Operators
1 Plant Operator/Digger-Loader Driver
3 Sewage Works Labourers
1 Part-time Labourer
1 Tractor Driver
1 Chargehand/Cesspool Emptyer Driver
1 Cesspool/Galley Emptyer Driver

Cleansing: 2 Chargehands
2 Driver/Loaders
4 Refuse Loaders
1 Salvage Baler

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 42 years.

