



# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

**REPORT OF:** Executive Member for Environmental Services

**LEAD OFFICERS:** Director of Environment and Operations

**DATE:** 13 February 2020

**PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:** Environmental Services

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** Little Harwood and Whitebirk

**KEY DECISION:** YES  NO

**SUBJECT:** Petition received regarding rodents in Warrington Street Blackburn affecting a number of homes.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Petitions received by the Council require a response following a report sent to the Executive Board. This report is in response to the petition received from households in the above area and invites the Board to issue a response as outlined below to the issues raised.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board: issue the response to the petition received.

## 3. BACKGROUND

The petition (copy attached) asks the Council to address the issue of rodents in their homes. The residents cite that they have had an issue for the past 3 years of rodents being in their homes. They claim that they have rang the Pest control department but this has not been resolved.

### Data from Warrington Street regarding rodent issues

Historical reports received from residents from Warrington Street, with regard to rodents over the past 5 years, has identified 38 complaints having been received, of which seven of the complaints having been received since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until the present day.

2015/16 = 11 complaints

2016/17 = 8 complaints

2017/18 = 4 complaints

2018/19 = 8 complaints

2019/ Present = 7 complaints

Pest control officers have visited the site following the complaints taking the appropriate actions to deal with the issue however, rodents will always go to areas where there is a food source.

### **Advice given to residents**

In order to help combat any rodent issue there are certain things the residents need to do to assist with the as followings:

- Ensure that their properties are maintained both externally and internally (this includes the drainage system), removing any access and egress points
- Ensure that all waste (especially food waste) is disposed of both correctly and responsibly in the designated receptacles.
- Do not throw food out to feed the birds, as this will provide a food source for rodents.

The Pest Control Officers, at their visits, do advise occupiers of any works which need carrying out and it is the home owner's responsibility to carry out this work and ensure their properties are kept free of rodents. For each complaint, up to 3 visits are provided by the Pest Control Officer.

### **4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS**

The pest control team act on numerous request for rodent issues across the borough and do eradicate problems from properties, however, unless the residents follow the above advice which is provided at the time of visit, rodents will return, due to a readily available food sources and access points. In Warrington Street it has been identified that some residents do leave waste out loose, which includes food, within their properties and in the back street, which encourages rodents.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 the authority has received 15 reports of waste related issues for Warrington Street, 14 from Providence Street and 3 from Beardwood Street that back on to Warrington Street and the fly-tipped waste has been removed on each occasion. The council has also provided cages vehicles on the following dates 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in this area for residents to get rid of unwanted items. The residents of the area will be leafleted for the end of January 2020, explaining the need to manage their waste properly. The council also operates a clear all policy and any extra bagged refuse left in the back street is cleared at the same time as the refuse collection service.

If residents do have extra waste, they can take the items to the household waste recycling centre or use the bulky waste collection service provided by the council. The council also offers a free pest control service for residents that have rodent issues.

The leaflet provided to the residents will contain advice and guidance on the matter.

Residents have also received guidance within the refuse and recycling calendar that was provided in December 2019, on collection days and arrangements.

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The council provides a free pest control service to householders at present.

### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council operates as the Waste Collection Authority and can make a charge for any household waste that is not contained within a wheeled bin. Additionally, the Council does not have to provide a pest control service to householders, as it is not a statutory service, although the Council does have statutory responsibility for the treatment of rodents on its own property. Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, it is the occupier's responsibility to keep their land free from vermin. This is an ordinary petition and the response proposed is within the range set out in the Council's petition scheme within the constitution.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

The Council will reply to the lead resident as indicated above.

## 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

This is an ordinary petition and the response proposed is within the range set out in the Council's petition scheme within the constitution. It is also compliant with equality legislation and an equality impact assessment and health impact assessment have been considered.

## 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

**VERSION:** 1

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Tony Watson, Head of Environment/ Phil Winstanley/Environment Manager (Operations)

**DATE:** 24/01/2020

**BACKGROUND PAPER:** Held by the report authors

