



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**AREA PANEL 3**  
**19 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Report of Cabinet Member, Leisure and Direct Services

## **Petition Relating to a Pest Problem on Rose Hill Street and Sale Street**

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1.1 On 4 July 2007 a petition signed by 6 people was presented to the Environmental Services Department concerning problems with rats, foxes, mice and bad smell in the alleyway at the back of properties on Sale Street and Rose Hill Street.
- 1.2 A visit was carried out by an officer from the Department's Public Health Team and the Pest Control Supervisor. The alleyway in question serves a number of properties on Rose Hill Street and Sale Street. The alleyway is gated and it was necessary for the officers to obtain a key from one of the residents to gain access to the alleyway.
- 1.3 At the time of the visit no evidence of any vermin infestation could be found. The alleyway was overgrown in places and some deposits of inert building material were found. No other waste or odour problems were present. There were no circumstances that would lead to any further action being taken by the Environmental Health Division
- 1.4 In terms of the responsibility for the alleyway, this falls to the owners of properties that have use of the alleyway. A property is responsible for maintaining the alleyway from the point where that property starts its use, to the alleyways exit on Sale Street. This means that most parts of the alleyway have shared responsibility and the cutting back of undergrowth and keeping the alleyway clean is the responsibility of those properties.
- 1.5 The Divisions Pest Control Team do carry out treatments for rats. No treatments are carried out for mice outside, or for foxes although advice can be given on discouraging the latter. There were no signs of any activity at the time of visiting, but if residents feel that any rat activity is occurring in the future advice can be given by Derby Direct on 01332 255260. The Division offers a free treatment service for rats in domestic premises.
- 1.6 It is acknowledged that there has been a delay in contacting the petitioners. However an advisory letter has been sent to the residents concerned on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007.
- 1.7 A follow up visit was carried out on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Again parts of the alleyway were found to be overgrown and there was a small amount of litter present, together with some building materials but no public health issues were evident.

## PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 On request, Pest Control will respond to any future requests for treatment for rats. Treatment will be carried out if there is evidence that activity is taking place.

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**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** None