

AGENDA ITEM: 4

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2010

### WINTER MAINTENANCE

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To present to the Overview and Scrutiny Board an outline of the purpose of this meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. Members of the Board are recommended to receive detail on the issue of Winter Maintenance from the Highways Agency and also the Fire Authority.

#### BACKGROUND

3. The Board has received evidence from the Environment Department, which set the background of the policies and practices undertaken with regard to winter maintenance. This was followed by the attendance of representatives from the Town Centre to present detail regarding the retail perspective and issues associated with access to the Town Centre. Following this, the Board has received information from the Children's Families and Learning function and Social care regarding the impact severe weather has had on these areas.
4. To assist the Board, the Terms of Reference already agreed by the Board are referenced below to assist during this meeting.

#### TERMS of REFERENCE

5. The following presents the Boards agreed Terms of Reference,
  - To examine the Councils planning/policies in respect of vulnerable people.
  - To assess the Councils policies for the maintenance of side roads/pavements.
  - To look at other agencies, which work across other local authority boundaries and is the Council satisfied with the standard provided.
  - To assess the placement of Grit Bins in neighbourhoods.

## **INFORMATION**

6. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with representatives from the Highways Agency and the Fire Authority. The intention is to identify the problems encountered last year, what actions are being taken to prepare for any future occurrence.
7. The adverse weather caused problems for vehicle and pedestrian access and general mobility. The Board has alerted these organisations that they would like to know what the general level of preparedness is and if additional or revised actions have been introduced should the area be faced with similar conditions as last year. This information may be strengthened by reference to national policies; however, the Board will primarily focus on the impact at a local level.
8. The organisations have been asked to present their experiences gained from the last winter, What difficulties they directly encountered (Salt / Grit supplies, vehicle availability, manpower issues, and local problems, etc) and what actions/ flexibility they may have and any proposals they feel the Local Authority would benefit from.

## **NEXT MEETING**

9. The Board determined that the next meeting should be 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 and that invitations to the Probation Service and Erimus Housing should be made for representatives to attend this meeting. Both organisations have been contacted and attendances have now been confirmed.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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