

AGENDA ITEM: 4

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

3rd NOVEMBER 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 Probation Service and also Erimus Housing.

BACKGROUND

3. The Board initially received evidence from the Environment Department, which outlined the background and policies/practices undertaken with regard to winter maintenance.
4. The initial meeting was followed by the attendance of representatives from the Town Centre who presented detail regarding the retailers perspective and issues associated with accessing the Town Centre. Following this, the Board has received information from the Children's Families and Learning function, Social Care, Fire Brigade and the Highways Authority regarding the impact the severe weather had on these areas.
5. To assist the Board, the Terms of Reference already agreed by the Board are referenced below to assist during this meeting.

TERMS of REFERENCE

6. 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

7. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with representatives from the Probation Service and Erimus Housing. The intention is to identify the problems encountered last year, what actions are being taken to prepare for any future occurrence.
8. 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 contribution the Probation Service has made to date through Community Payback in assisting the area. Also what opportunities exist for these services to be directed to assist during any future severe weather situations. The Board would also like to know the general level of preparedness both the Probation Service and Erimus Housing make and if additional or revised actions have been introduced should the area be faced with similar conditions to 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.
9. The organisations have been asked to present the 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 to assist the area.

NEXT MEETING

10. The Board is requested to identify the time and date of its next meeting and should it require any additional sources of evidence.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Contact Officer:

Peter Clark – Senior Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: 01642 729708 (direct line)

Email: peter_clark@middlesbrough.gov.uk