

AGENDA ITEM: 4

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

8th DECEMBER 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 Environment Department (Transport and Design), Social Care and Strategic Resources (Risk and Insurance)

BACKGROUND

3. The Board initially received evidence from the Environment Department, which outlined the background and policies/practices undertaken with regard to winter maintenance. From this meeting the Board has received a range of information from various organisations and services regarding the impact of the 2009/10 winter and the experiences gained from this. The organisations and representatives who have attended a Board meeting included

- Environment (Transport and Design)
- Town Centre Management
- Children Families & Learning
- Social Care Service
- Cleveland Fire Brigade
- Highways Authority
- Representative from Sir Robert McAlpine

- A19 Autolink
- Probation Service
- Erimus Housing

In addition to the above providers of information to the Board, Information has also been sought from the NHS, the Councils Insurers and legal view on Litigation.

TERMS of REFERENCE

4. 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.

PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING

5. The purpose of this meeting is to meet with representatives from the Environment Department (Transport and Design) representation from Social Care and information from Strategic Resources regarding risk and insurance.
6. The First item is to receive an update on the actions/planning taken by the Environment Dept in relation to preparedness for the 2010/11 winter. This is to inform the Board of developments which follow on from the information presented to the OSB meeting in August this year on the action/difficulties and experiences gained from the 2009/10 winter.
7. The second item is to address Social Care in relation the impact on the service from the increased number of falls sustained during the last winter. Initial indication was that the winter had not had a major affect on the delivery of the service. However, with further information being received regarding the number of falls and associated incidents which resulted in people attending Hospital. As this increased substantially during the winter of 2009/10 the Board has asked that further information be provided on the affect this had on Social Care and what/any actions are being taken re preparedness for the 2010/11 winter
8. The Board has received information from Erimus, Town Centre Management and the Probation Service. In all cases it was conveyed to the Board of their concern regarding the clearing of snow in public areas where any subsequent fall by the public could result in compensation claims against the organisation which cleared the snow. Consequently, the Board considered that it was

necessary to obtain a clarity on this issue of potential litigation and has asked for information regarding the degree of risk associated with undertaking such tasks as snow clearing to be presented to the meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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