

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
WINTER MAINTENANCE – ACTION PLAN**

1 March 2011

| SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION | PROPOSED ACTION | BY WHOM | BUDGET COST | TIMESCALE |
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| <p>a) All services to work together and establish a collective winter maintenance plan, which clearly identifies the roles of individual services in areas of practical application and in communication. The Board believe this will form the basis for providing a coordinated approach to tackling the problems of severe adverse weather.</p> | <p>Lead department for the Council's statutory duty for winter maintenance is Environment who call a senior officers' group to coordinate the Council's response. All other departments to review their Business Continuity Plans to incorporate winter weather issues.</p> | <p>All Depts</p> | | <p>Oct 2011</p> |
| <p>b) That officers improve communication by establishing a more formal arrangement with officers across the Tees valley in regard to Winter Maintenance.</p> | <p>There are already appropriate co-ordination and communication arrangements in place for winter maintenance across the Tees Valley.</p> <p>No further action is required.</p> | <p>Tees Valley Chief Engineers</p> | | <p>Already in place</p> |
| <p>c) That the present misconception held by various partners/agencies regarding potential litigation for compensation claims (re public slipping on snow/ice) be clarified and the findings conveyed to all</p> | <p>The latest advice from the Government and the Council are already available on the Council's website.</p> <p>No further action is required.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care and Environment Dept</p> | | <p>Already in place</p> |

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| appropriate partners. | | | | |
| d) That the Council discuss with their insurers for the provision of a letter of indemnity to those agencies and services who undertake snow/ice clearing under the direction of the Council, should any subsequent claims be submitted by the public for falls. | Further discussions are required between insurance/legal/service officers to determine risks associated with this matter. | Strategic Resources Legal Adult Social Care and Environment | | July 2011 |
| e) To commence discussions with a primary school partnership to examine the principle of school staff going to the nearest school during periods of adverse weather conditions when it is determined they can not get to their normal school. | This proposal is to be discussed through the Schools Management Forum in June 2011. | CFL | Existing Resource | June 2011 |
| f) That when severe weather coincides with public examinations, head teachers make every effort to open for examination candidates even if the rest of a school was closed. | This proposal is to be discussed through the Schools Management Forum in June 2011. | CFL | Existing Resource | June 2011 |
| g) To commence discussions with the Probation Service regarding the use of offenders undertaking Community Payback. The purpose to establish a plan identifying priority areas where offenders would be directed. These priority areas to include the Town Centre, health centres, schools, to ensure they are cleared and accessible. | Discussions will be held prior to next winter. | Adult Social Care and Environment Department | | September 2011 |
| h) That a meeting is arranged with RSL's and the Council to establish a procedure for notification of adverse | The normal weather forecasts | | | Already in place. No further action |

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| <p>weather conditions and to agree a co-ordinated approach which informs and directs available resources.</p> | <p>available for the public are adequate for the RSL's needs. The Council has a statutory duty to act in response to weather warnings of snow and frost and covers the public highways within the RSL's area. The RSL must decide upon its own policy for the clearance of its private footpath and roads.</p> | | | <p>required.</p> |
| <p>i) For appropriate Council officers to meet with RSL's and agree a written policy, which ensures the support for vulnerable people. The policy, its responsibilities and application to be presented in a Member briefing to ensure awareness and to avoid raising the expectations of residents unnecessarily.</p> | <p>A meeting will be arranged with the RSLs to discuss this matter with them.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care and Environment Department</p> | | <p>July 2011</p> |
| <p>j) The Council to meet with the Town Centre Management and agree priority areas to be cleared within the retail sector. The Council to agree levels of salt/grit provision and the Retailers to agree the areas where they will provide the manpower to clear snow and ice.</p> | <p>These arrangements have already been implemented during December 2010. Salt bins are not appropriate for town centre pedestrianised areas where the Council will primarily use mechanised methods for the spreading of salt. The Council cannot rely on the retailers to perform its statutory duty.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care and Environment Dept</p> | | <p>Already in place</p> |
| <p>k) That appropriate publicity which encourages and endears public participation in residential areas to clear snow/ice from neighbours property and footpaths, specifically in areas when elderly are known to have</p> | <p>The Press Office will regularly update the MBC website home page with information on weather forecasts, gritting routes and salt stocks. Press releases will be issued to relevant local media to ensure the public are kept</p> | <p>Press Office</p> | | <p>As required</p> |

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| <p>mobility problems be undertaken.</p> | <p>informed of developments. Use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook will be further explored and developed. Public participation will be actively encouraged and highlighted where appropriate.</p> | | | |
| <p>l) That the Environment department look at the issue of Salt/Grit storage and to engage with other Local Authorities within the Tees Valley to identify a location for the common storage of salt/grit where all Councils supporting the central storage can access.</p> | <p>No action recommended because of the need for substantial capital investment in land and covered storage for the salt and the close proximity of salt stores Boulby Mine.</p> <p>Any new depot proposals for Middlesbrough could include a larger storage facility.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care and Environment Department</p> | | <p>No action required</p> |
| <p>m) That the Council engages with other local authorities regarding the joint use of snow clearing and gritting vehicles which are temporarily used to tackle areas within the Tees Valley where and individual authority is having specific difficulties.</p> | <p>Mutual Aid arrangements already exist amongst the Tees Valley Authorities. However, each authority already has sufficient plant to comply with the appropriate code of practice regarding completion of gritting routes within 2 hrs.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care and Environment Dept</p> | | <p>Already in place</p> |