

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 9

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

13th NOVEMBER 2012

OSB REPORT (2011) & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (2012) RE WINTER MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are recommended to address the information provided by the Service, the Executive Member and the Auditor regarding the item of Winter Maintenance.

BACKGROUND

3. At Audit Committee meeting of 20th September the committee received a report from Strategic Resources on the progress of the Council's Internal Audit. The report contained an appendix outlining the performance measures, the indicator and milestone on various topics. One item the committee focused upon was relating to Winter Maintenance and an Audit Report completed in July 2012.
4. The committee was concerned with the Main findings of the audit report, which was presented in the progress report. These findings are replicated for the Boards attention as follows

The Audit highlighted the lack of an up to date Winter Maintenance Plan as well as a lack of a means for measuring rock salt stocks to ensure that gritting needs can be met. In

addition the Environment recommendations made by the "Overview and Scrutiny Board" in December 2010 (as a result of severe winter conditions in 2009/10) had not been implemented.

5. The Audit Committee is concerned that not only have the Scrutiny recommendations not been implemented but that these recommendations were presented by the Board in December 2010 for Executive consideration and were addressed by the Executive in March 2011.
6. Consequently, the Overview and Scrutiny Board addressed this issue at its meeting of 16th October 2012. The Board concluded that it was appropriate to invite the Service responsible for Winter Maintenance and the Executive Member with this portfolio to attend this meeting and present to the Board the present position regarding each of the recommendations contained within the 2011 Scrutiny report as presented to the Executive.
7. The Board also considered it was appropriate to invite the Auditor to the same meeting to outline the Auditors findings and indeed for the Board to gain an understanding and clarity on each item presented from the Auditors findings in relation to the service response.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. Report to Audit Committee of 20th September
9. Overview and Scrutiny Committee report of December 2010
10. Minutes of Executive of March 2011

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