

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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| MEETING: | Cabinet | |
| MEETING DATE: | 14th November 2012 | EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: |
| | | E 2474 |
| TITLE: | Winter Maintenance – Snow Warden Pilot Review | |
| WARD: | All | |
| AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | | |
| List of attachments to this report: | | |
| None | | |

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 Following the implementation of the Snow Warden Pilot Scheme carried out across winter 2011/12, the Cabinet requested a review of the scheme and to seek agreement on arrangements for the winter 2012/13.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 The existing Snow Warden Pilot Scheme is continued across the winter 2012/13.

2.2 The arrangements for the Highway Winter Service during winter 2012/13 continue as set out in the Policy approved by Cabinet on 14th September 2011. A copy of which can be viewed on:

http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/winter_service_policy.pdf

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Highway Service will continue support of the Snow Warden Scheme in its current format from within existing winter reactive revenue budgets.
- 3.2 No changes will be made to the arrangements for the scheme with the bulk of equipment already in place, the largest outlay will be around distribution of salt pallets and this is included within the Highway Service budgets.
- 3.3 If the winter 2012/13 becomes difficult due to prolonged severe cold weather and snowfall, cost for the whole Winter Service including the Snow Warden Scheme will become a pressure within the highways budgets and will be mitigated from within those budgets as far as the Service is able at that late stage of the financial year. This is a risk highlighted in the Robustness Statement for the Service.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone by enabling people to continue to move around during bad weather conditions.
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live by enabling people to contribute locally to dedicated actions that help the neighbourhoods in which they reside.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Highway Service on behalf of the Council manages a stock of over 426 grit bins positioned on locally important locations off of the priority network. All bins will be replaced where damaged and refilled prior to the onset of colder winter conditions. As per the agreed Policy these bins will be replenished as resources allow throughout the winter season.
- 5.2 Following a review of the previous winter's requests for inclusion of sections of highway on the priority gritting network, no additions are being made to the 2011/12 priority routes for 2012/13; the priority gritting network will therefore remain 261 miles in total length.
- 5.3 The barn at Clutton depot will be replenished to full capacity of 1300 tonnes prior to the start of the winter season (officially 1st November 2012). A further 1000 tonne reserve stock pile is currently held under a purpose made cover at Braysdown Depot near Peasedown St John. The Highway Service will co-ordinate with suppliers, neighbouring authorities and necessary government departments to ensure as far as possible the integrity of supply.
- 5.4 For safety reasons, the Highway Service will be unable to supply members of the public with road salt from any of the storage depots.
- 5.5 As set out in the Approved Winter Service Policy the Highway Service will continue to engage with other Services i.e. Neighbourhood Services and local farmers with snow ploughs to assist during periods of prolonged cold temperatures and significant snowfall.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 The Council as Highway Authority has a statutory duty and the current arrangements conform to this duty. The additional services provided by the snow warden scheme help to achieve the Council Corporate Objectives.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Cabinet Members; Parish Council; Town Council; Other B&NES Services; Community Interest Groups; Resident Associations; Existing Trial Snow Wardens; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

10.2 Public reports and requests for services have been received.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Corporate; Health & Safety

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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| Contact person | Kelvin Packer 01225 394339 |
| Sponsoring Cabinet Member | Councillor Roger Symonds |
| Background papers | None |
| Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format | |