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GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

WINTER MAINTENANCE PREPARATION REVIEW

Date: Thursday 8 September and Thursday 15 September 2011.

Time: 2.30pm (same start time for both panel dates)

Venue: Council House, Next to the Civic Centre

Members:

Councillor Nicholson, Chair

Councillor Coker, Vice Chair

Councillors Berrow, K Foster, Martin Leaves, Murphy, Williams and Wright.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

Members and officers are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.

Please note that unless the chair of the meeting agrees, mobile phones should be switched off and speech, video and photographic equipment should not be used in meetings.

Barry Keel
Chief Executive

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

AGENDA

PART I – PUBLIC MEETING

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance by panel members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

3. WINTER MAINTENANCE PREPARATION REVIEW:

3.1. Project Initiation Document **(Pages 1 - 4)**

3.2. Winter Maintenance Preparation Overview **(Pages 5 - 14)**

3.3. Ice Related Insurance Claims **(Pages 15 - 16)**

4. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it (they) involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

PART II (PRIVATE MEETING)

AGENDA

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

that under the law, the Panel is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

NIL.

REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEM



	Title of Work Programme Item	Review of Winter Maintenance Preparation: Gritting rounds and salt bins
2	Responsible Director (s)	Anthony Payne : Director for Development & Regeneration
3	Responsible Officer Tel No.	Tom White : Head of Network Management, Transport & Highways 01752 304256
4	Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cabinet Member for Transport
5	Objectives	Scrutiny members will gain a better understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The highway network and class of routes • Resources • Current locations/ routes (including non HMPE land) • Current assessment criteria • Comparison with other unitary authorities • Industry standards
6	Who will benefit?	The review will benefit the Council and Plymouth residents by reviewing current practice and value for money
7	Criteria for Choosing Topics (see table at end of document)	A high level of public interest, due to the icy conditions during the last two winters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity • Public interest issue covered in local media
8	What will happen if we don't do this review?	The current Winter Maintenance Preparation programme will continue as normal.

9	What are we going to do?	<p>The scrutiny will review the current locations and arrangements for the gritting of the road network and pavements across the city and consider the assessment criteria to seek a fit for purpose winter maintenance programme.</p> <p>Overview of current provision including all non HMPE salt bins; Overview of current routes gritted; Review of current assessment criteria; Obtaining and understanding local and national comparators and Industry standard; Consideration of value for money;</p>
10	How are we going to do it? (witnesses, site visits, background information etc.)	Site visits, officer presentations, background information
11	What we won't do.	The scrutiny will exclude any activity that does not fall within the criteria of winter maintenance preparation.
12	Timetable & Key Dates	August/September 2011
13	Links to other projects or initiatives / plans	n/a
14	Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group (to be decided by OSP before submission to OMB)	Growth and Prosperity Overview & Scrutiny Panel
15	Where will the report go? Who will make the final decision	To the scheduled meeting dates of the panel, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Cabinet /Council
16	Resources (staffing, research, experts, sites visits and so on)	Plymouth City Council staff resources Amey staff resources
17	Is this part of a statutory responsibility on the panel?	No
18	Should any other panel be involved in this review? If so who and why?	N/A
19	Will the task and finish group benefit from co-opting any person(s) onto the panel.	No
20	How does this link to corporate priorities?	Delivering Growth, Value for Communities.

(Items would be expected to meet at least two of the following criteria)

- Corporate priority area
- Poor performing service (evidence from PIs, benchmarking or where high levels of dissatisfaction from customers are recorded)
- High budgetary commitment
- Pattern of not reaching budget targets
- Issue raised by external audit, management letter, inspection report
- New government guidance or legislation
- Issue consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity
- Public interest issue covered in local media

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Task and Finish Review 2011



**Scrutiny Task & Finish
Winter Maintenance**

What is the service?



- Winter Season is October to April
- Pre treatment of the main roads in Plymouth
- Post treatment to footpaths (subject to resources), after roads, doing City Centre and shopping areas first, then by risk assessment.
- Maintaining 400+ grit bins (total 200t to refill).
- Clearance of snow off the main roads.
- Snow clearance on other roads after the main roads
- Snow clearance on footpaths if resources available

Legal implications and liabilities



- Duty to maintain the highway under the Highways Act, 1980 which embraces Winter service.
- Highway Authority for a highway maintainable at the public expense are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

From the Winter Maintenance Operational Plan



- 14 pre-treatment routes have been defined - 7 Primary and 7 Secondary routes. These detail roads that are more heavily used or provide access to hospitals, fire stations etc.
- We pre-treat this defined network to prevent the formation of frost, ice or the laying of snow.
- 4 snow routes prioritise when snow is on the ground.
- Over 400 grit bins have been strategically placed across the network.
- We do not pre-salt the footway network.

We also support others in Plymouth



- Crematorium - supply of salt bins.
- Treatment to some park and rides.
- Ferry port - gritting
- Torpoint Ferry - treatment of parking area
- Corporate Property - treatment of Windsor House Car park, Prince Rock Depot and supply of 20t of salt
- Community Grant fund - additional green grit bins

Last year we also supported Schools, NHS Derriford, Police and Fire Brigades when their salt stocks ran out, and City Centre Company when they wanted their own salt.

Salt supply



- Last year we used a total of 1522 tonnes
- We now have in stock 870 tonnes
- As used we will re-order to maintain a 6 day reserve.
- We can call upon local support, e.g. DCC and Amey Hampshire contract
- Last year Central Gov “Salt Cell” controlled national distribution, setting up a 250,000t stockpile.
- Amey brought in shipments to Southampton to support.

Last year



- 36 Early morning inspections (EMI)
- 24 Primary routes actions
- 18 Secondary routes actions
- Snow ploughs and continuous action on 2 days.
- Replenished grit bins 3 times
- In general it takes 4 hours to treat the 7 primary and secondary routes
- EMI two gritters dispatched to check known wet spots and check the network. Can escalate if needed to full action.

Grit bins, over 400 and growing!



- Actually hold salt not grit
- Not all grit bins are HMPE
- Can become litter bins, some people complain they don't want them by their property, abused by others.
- In our plan we review annually but based on historic information and new requests are considered as follows:
 - On a already treated route? Then normally rejected
 - Is the location traffic sensitive, with high volume?
 - Is the location a repetitive accident / incident spot?
 - Is the location commensurate with other sites?

This year's review and recommendations



- Plymouths Growth agenda, new developments.
- Change in emergency services locations
- Revised guidance in terms of spread rates.
- Revised considerations, city centre and shopping area footway areas.
- Different plant, Multihog unit.

Ideas for consideration



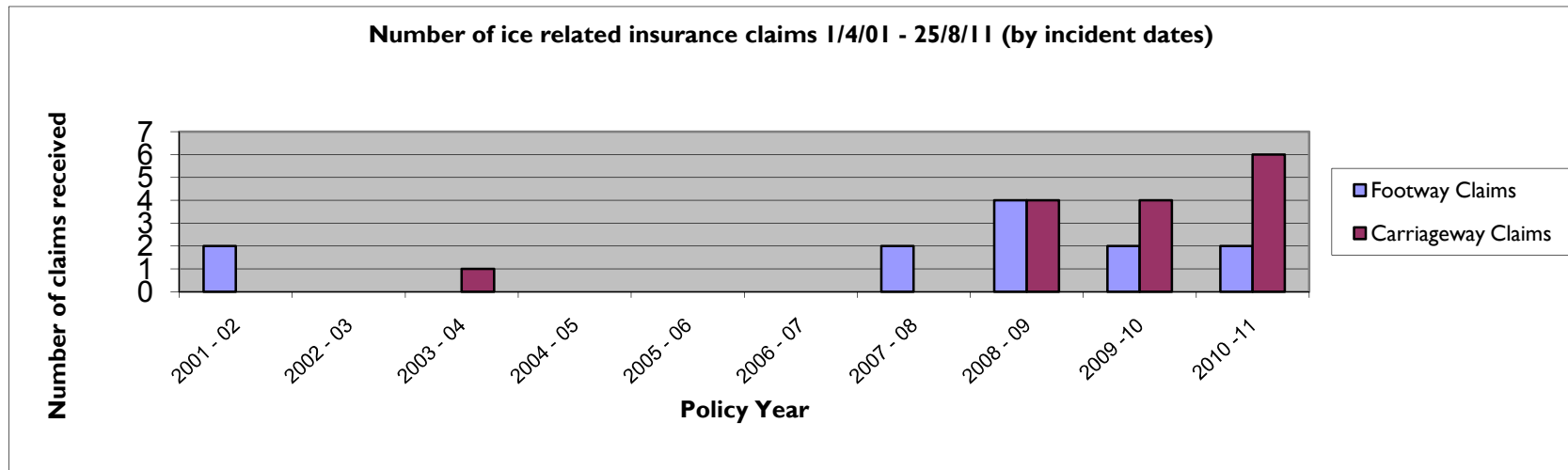
- Stock pile for Corporate use? - PCC currently own a 3000t Salt Barn at Prince Rock , could this be better used.
- Grit Bin review - do we have too many? Are they in the right places? how do we consider new requests?
- Grit Bin Policy – to help us define how we deal with new requests

**Report of the number of ice related insurance claims 1/4/01 - 25/8/11 (by incident date) -
Scrutiny Review of Winter Maintenance Preparation - 8 September 2011**

Policy Year	Total C/Way	Total F/Way	O/S Reserve	Payments	Total	Repudiated	Settled	Outstanding
	claims	Claims						
2001 - 02	2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	0	0
2002 - 03	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
2003 - 04	0	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	0	0
2004 - 05	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
2005 - 06	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
2006 - 07	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
2007 - 08	2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	2	0	0
2008 - 09	4	4	76,173.08	11,826.92	88,000.00	5	0	3
2009 - 10	2	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	6	0	0
2010 - 11	2	6	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	6	0	2
Totals	12	15	£ 98,173.08	£ 11,826.92	£ 110,000.00	22	0	5

2008 - 09 Liability is denied in the 3 outstanding cases, one of which has a Court Trial Date in October 2010

2010 - 11 Liability is still under investigation in these two recent cases.



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