

Overview and Scrutiny Scoping Paper 2010/11

Subject of the Review	Winter Maintenance
Chairman	Michael Edmonds
Review members, including co-optees	Bruce Allen, David Polhill, John Cartwright, Ruth Vigor-Hedderly, Bill Lidgate, Doug Anson, David Rowlands, David Schofield, Michael Brand, Mary Baldwin
Officer contact	Michael Chard (x7728)
Purpose of the Review	<p>To focus on the provision of safe highways and footways during periods of severe winter weather to enable access for the public to their employment, essential services and local amenities.</p> <p>To review the current Winter Maintenance Plan and investigate the success of the Council's response to the previous two years of severe winter weather.</p> <p>To consult with partner organisations on how the future Winter Maintenance Plan can be enhanced and services to the public can be maintained and improved.</p> <p>To investigate the use of new technology or alternative materials to ensure the highways network (including road and footway maintenance) remains useable during severe winter weather.</p> <p>To review the Council's policy for the procurement of salt and grit.</p> <p>To make recommendations to Cabinet and partner organisation on how winter maintenance can be improved in the future.</p>
Anticipated outcome(s)	Recommendations to Cabinet and partner organisations, if necessary, around improving the efficiency, value for money and communication of winter maintenance in Buckinghamshire.
Key Issues for the review to address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did we perform against our winter maintenance plan targets? • What was done well? • What could have been done better? • How could prompt clearance of snow and ice on footways/ footpaths in towns/villages be best achieved to aid safe use by pedestrians? • The use of salt bins to salt local public highways including misuse • Is our procurement of salt providing value for money?

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<p>What is the potential impact of the review on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Equality issues, e.g. access to services, vulnerable groups • Health inequalities • Adding value to the organisation • Partners 	<p>Improved understanding for residents of the County Council's gritting policies for highways and footways.</p> <p>With partners/stakeholders and public input improved understanding of concerns and how access to key amenities could be improved during exceptional weather events.</p> <p>Potential for improving value for money for the organisation.</p>
<p>Link to Council Corporate Plan priority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage, Improve and Protect Our Exceptional Environment • Build and Sustain Prosperity • Promote Community Spirit • Support People Who Need Our Help • Deliver Effective and Efficient Services
<p>Consideration of Local Area Agreement targets</p>	
<p>Methodology</p>	<p>Desk based research- looking at national and international practices Site visits- countywide and nationally Internet consultation Task and Finish group discussions</p>
<p>Press & Publicity</p>	<p>Press Release</p>
<p>Key background papers</p>	<p>BCC Winter Maintenance Plan Weathering the Storm- LGA Ringway Jacobs contract for winter maintenance Keep Buckinghamshire Moving: A (Scrutiny) Review of Road and Footway Maintenance in Buckinghamshire</p>
<p>Use of demographics/ needs data</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Written evidence to be provided by:</p>	<p>Buckinghamshire Parish Councils (through BALC) Buckinghamshire Economic and Learning Partnership (BELP) Buckinghamshire District Councils Residents Local Area Forums (LAFs)</p>
<p>Oral evidence to be provided by:</p>	<p>Val Letheren, Cabinet Member for Transport Jim Stevens, Head of Transport for Buckinghamshire Mark Averill, Network Operations Manager Local Area Technician representative Thames Valley Police Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue South Central Ambulance Service NHS Buckinghamshire Bus Operators</p>
<p>Potential partners</p>	<p>Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)</p>

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Resources required	Policy Officer resource Democratic services resource
Timetable	April-July 2010
Reporting mechanism	Cabinet