

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 21 OCTOBER 2009

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S WINTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE POLICY

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To present the outcome report by members of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee on their recent review of the Council's Winter Emergency Response Policy and to invite Cabinet to agree the recommendations contained in the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At the Governance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 January 2009, the Committee agreed to review the Council's Winter Emergency Response Policy.
- 2.2** The Committee began the review in May 2009. The review consisted of information gathering, a site visit and meetings with relevant witnesses.
- 2.3** Having considered all the information gathered, and after discussion with Members at informal meetings, conclusions and recommendations were formulated and are contained in the attached report which was agreed at the meeting of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee held on 28 August 2009. The report is now being presented to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations contained therein with the exception of recommendation (xi) which will be progressed through the Governance and Scrutiny Committee processes.
- 2.4** To assist Members with their deliberations an Action Plan based on the findings of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee has been developed and timescales for completion of the various elements agreed with the relevant officer. The Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

3. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** None arising directly from this report.

4. FINANCIAL/RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** The financial implications and any risk management implications associated with the recommendations contained in the review report have not been quantified at this stage. It is, however, felt that the costs should be able to be met from existing budgets.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The proposals contained within the report on the outcome of the review complement the planned outcomes and actions contained within the following Community Plan Action Plans, in particular, Improving Health and Wellbeing; Improving Community Safety and Delivering Community Regeneration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** Cabinet is requested to:-

- (i) give due consideration to the findings of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee and the related recommendations as outlined in paragraph 9, pages 8 and 9 of the report; and agree the adoption of their recommendations
- (ii) to notify the Governance and Scrutiny Committee of its proposals.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/KW

6TH October 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

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WINTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE – ACTION PLAN

	ACTION	OWNERSHIP	BY WHEN	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
(i)	Review the current priority routes for carriageways to ensure currency and continued efficiency.	Head of Roads & Transportation	Summer 2010	A full review of gritting routes will be carried out based on road hierarchy to give an objective assessment
(ii)	Review the current priority routes for footways, footpaths and cycleways to ensure currency and continued efficiency. Consideration should be given to weather patterns in rural areas and the need to be flexible to local circumstances; in addition consideration should be given to the gritting of footways around areas identified by NHS Ayrshire & Arran as having an elderly population.	Head of Roads & Transportation	Summer 2010	A review of priority footway gritting routes will be carried out. However any increase to the length or number of footway gritting routes will have budgetary implications. Comments regarding flexibility will be passed to Winter Controllers for consideration when instructing footway gritting.
(iii)	Explore the possibility of locating a small temporary salt store within the Doon Valley for use in emergencies for the gritting of footpaths.	Head of Roads & Transportation	31/10/09	Initial discussions with Scottish Coal have taken place for locating a salt store at Chalmerston

				OCCS. Formal arrangements will be put in place to allow a store of salt to be held at Chalmerston OCCS.
(iv)	Review the system of cleaning, filling and maintaining grit bins	Head of Roads & Transportation	31/10/09	A procedure for cleaning, filling and maintaining grit bins will be drawn up.
(v)	Ensure that all Council premises have appropriate arrangements in place to ensure a duty of care of staff and the general public in relation to the gritting of car parks, roads and related footpaths; consideration should also be given to the operational arrangements at co-location facilities and PPP school campuses in this regard.	Executive Head of Finance & Asset Management	31/10/09	
(vi)	Raise with Community Planning Partners the need to ensure that similar to recommendation (V) above that all public premises which they have responsibility for are appropriately gritted.	Community Planning and Partnership Manager	30/11/09	
(vii)	Work with colleagues across the Council and the wider Community Planning Partnership to implement an effective information / communication campaign on winter gritting; staying safe during severe spells of cold weather and falls prevention.	Communication and Customer First Manager	30/11/09	Preliminary work underway
(viii)	Review the arrangements in place to support vulnerable adults and elderly people during times of severe weather. Work in partnership with the	Head of Service Community Care	30/11/09	

	Communication and Customer First Manager to ensure effective communication systems are in place.			
(ix)	Ensure effective communication with the local press and radio, as appropriate and provide detailed information on gritting priorities on the Council website.	Head of Roads & Transportation Communication and Customer First Manager Strathclyde Police	31/10/09	A protocol for issuing information on winter response to the media will be drawn up in conjunction with Communication and Customer First Manager and Strathclyde Police. Winter Policy and Procedures document will be available on the Council website along with plans of gritting routes.
(x)	Consider including a section within the licence for 'wheelie bin' cleaners to ensure that all steps are taken to reduce the risks caused by freezing water and its impact on the environment.	Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services	Policy report to Licensing Panel meeting on 17/12/09	It is proposed to present a policy paper to the Licensing Panel inviting them to approve suitable additional conditions to the relevant category of licences, similar to those requiring burger van operators to provide bins and tidy up after themselves.

(xi)	Write to external parties who have participated in, or contributed to the review process, formally thanking them for their assistance and provide them with a copy of this report.	Chair of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee		
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