

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2001

WINTER MAINTENANCE REVIEW

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee:

- i) That a questionnaire on winter maintenance has been issued to members of the public within East Ayrshire to gauge the public's reaction to the Roads and Transportation Divisions effectiveness in dealing with last years winter conditions and to identify the public's priorities for a winter maintenance service.
- ii) That the findings from the questionnaire will be reported to a future Committee.
- iii) That a winter maintenance review will be undertaken and the findings reported to a future Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** Following the loss of the management and maintenance contracts for the A77 Stranraer – Glasgow Trunk Road and the A76 Dumfries – Kilmarnock Trunk Road, a revision to the existing gritting arrangements is also required.
- 2.2** A requirement of the Scottish Executive's Best Value Regime is that all services consult with their customers on the quality of the service they have received over the previous year, and on the priorities for the coming year.
- 2.3** .Heavy snow caused extensive disruption on two occasions last winter. Although response services worked effectively experience was gained which needs to be built into future response arrangements.
- 2.4** A winter maintenance review will be undertaken to examine all aspects of the winter service.

3. WINTER MAINTENANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

- 3.1** To comply with this requirement a questionnaire has been prepared and distributed to 2000 householders in East Ayrshire.

- 3.2** The questionnaire will provide the Roads and Transportation Division with public perception of the effectiveness of last winter's approach to dealing with snow and ice covered roads and footways within East Ayrshire.
- 3.3** It will, in addition evaluate the provision and quality of roads information given out during this time and provide the department with an understanding of the public's expectations and priorities for a winter maintenance service.
- 3.4** The responses will be analysed and evaluated and a report prepared for a future Committee.

4. WINTER MAINTENANCE REVIEW

- 4.1** A full winter maintenance review will be undertaken and a report will be submitted to a future Committee.
- 4.2** The review will consider the following issues:
- Priorities arising from the Winter Maintenance Questionnaire
 - The revision of gritting arrangements due to the loss of the Trunk Road Contracts
 - Procedures for engaging local contractors to supplement winter maintenance resources
 - Liaising with other council departments on winter maintenance
 - Heavy snow response plan including:
 - communication arrangements
 - operational procedures
 - information to the public
- 4.3** Following this review an information leaflet on winter maintenance will be prepared.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The cost of the questionnaire and any alterations to winter maintenance arrangements will be contained within existing budgets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** In Scotland the statutory responsibilities for a Winter Service are defined in Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Because operational and financial resources are finite, East Ayrshire Council has a defined policy on priority treatments for carriageways and footways.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- i) Note that a questionnaire on winter maintenance has been issued to members of the public to comply with Best Value requirements.
- ii) Request the Director to report to a future Committee on the findings from the questionnaire and the winter maintenance review.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

JTK/YK
20 August 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 Winter maintenance questionnaire

For further information contact Jim Kane on 01563 576310

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AGENDA