

Subject: Winter Maintenance Plan

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 17th November, 2010

Report of: Director of Customers and Communities

Portfolio

Holder: Environment

Key Decision: No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the work ongoing in partnership in Rossendale to ensure that service disruption is minimised and vulnerable people are supported as far as possible in the event of severe winter weather.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-
- Delivering Quality Services to our Customers
 - Encouraging Healthy and Respectful Communities
 - Keeping our Borough Clean, Green and Safe

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 This plan will mitigate risks from severe weather and the impact on the Council's service delivery and the welfare and wellbeing of its residents.
- 3.2 If staff are deployed onto other duties, such as clearing snow and gritting, then other services will be disrupted. Front line service delivery will be prioritised in these circumstances.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 As a consequence of the severe weather experienced in Rossendale over the last 2 winters and the impact this had on all organisations and members of the public, it was proposed by Rossendale Borough Council that a Rossendale Multi-Agency Working Group be set up and tasked with developing a Winter Maintenance Plan. The aim of this plan is to ensure that there is an agreed

procedure to assist coordination between the relevant organisations and that each organisation's roles and responsibilities during an incident of severe weather are clarified. Severe weather incidents are becoming increasingly more prevalent, and this has been identified as a significant risk in the Lancashire Community Risk Register.

4.2 The agencies involved in this work are:

- Rossendale Borough Council
- Lancashire County Council
- East Lancashire Primary Care Trust
- Help Direct
- Greenvale Homes
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue
- North West Ambulance Service
- Rossendale & Pendle Mountain Rescue

4.3 The plan produced in Rossendale links to the Lancashire winter resilience plan and outlines how the agencies within Rossendale will respond to warnings of severe or extreme weather conditions in the Borough and still continue to deliver their services to best effect.

4.4 The plan details the command and communication arrangements for such events and the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies when responding to such events.

4.5 The aim of the plan is to enable appropriate resources to be speedily mobilised to deal with any severe weather emergency or to render mutual aid to other agencies as appropriate.

4.6 The planning process takes into account a number of issues which are set out in the attached briefing papers (Appendices 1 & 2), some of which are summarised here:

- Provision and amount of winter grit stored in Rossendale, for use on Rossendale roads – there will be an increase in the amount of salt stored in Rossendale to 2000 tonnes, plus a further 30 tonnes for distribution by RBC staff;
- Filling and location of grit bins by Lancashire County Council – there are now 340 grit bins in Rossendale.
- Amendments to the primary/secondary and pavement schedules by Lancashire County Council, these amendments are as a result of feedback received from last winter by members and residents;
- Capacity and resources of Rossendale Borough Council staff – Rossendale to deploy workforce who are unable to carry out their normal duties and could assist with the gritting of town centre areas and footpaths;

- Identification of Rossendale Borough Council owned buildings to store grit from Lancashire County Council for Rossendale Borough Council use;
- Roles/responsibilities of all organisations;
- Agreed notification process with the Police;
- Development by Lancashire County Council of Rossendale specific winter maintenance leaflets to be available at a number of locations throughout Rossendale. This leaflet to contain general advice on winter maintenance with relevant contact numbers.
- Communities Team to work with and encourage community groups to get involved in schemes to assist their own communities and helping vulnerable neighbours;
- Potential purchase of grit spreading equipment which can be added to pavement sweepers by Rossendale Borough Council Operations Team – one unit is now being tested;
- Rossendale Borough Council to purchase a further 30 tonnes of salt to be stored in local areas.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 Any financial implications are identified in the body of the report.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 Any legal implications are identified in the body of the report.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 The Plan will have Human Resource, Communication and Equality implications these issues will have to be considered as part of the development of the plan and referred to Members and Trade Unions as appropriate

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Partner agencies in Rossendale are now working together to ensure, as far as possible, the maintenance of service delivery and support for vulnerable people in instances of severe winter weather.

8.2 A winter maintenance plan has been developed to co-ordinate the different roles of the agencies and this plan will continue to develop as we learn from good practice.

8.3 Appendix 3 sets out the main contact details for members of the public during instances of severe weather. These details are being incorporated into a leaflet, alongside other information, which will be circulated across the Borough in November 2010.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That this approach is noted and supported.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 A briefing and consultation session was held with Borough and County Councillors on 25 October 2010.

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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