

To: Environment, Highways & Waste Policy, Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 27 September 2011

From: Bryan Sweetland, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste

Subject: Winter Service Policy 2011/12

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The report seeks Member support for approval of the Winter Service Policy (as amended September 2011) and the Winter Service Plan that supports it.

1. Introduction

On 7th July 2011 the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out proposals for revising the Winter Service Policy. By a majority vote, Members of the committee agreed to amend the Policy enabling parish councils to purchase their own salt bins and place these on the highway.

2. Financial implications

The allocated budget for winter service for 2011/12 is £3,159,581

3. Forecast and ice prediction service

As in previous years the weather forecast service will be provided by Meteogroup and the ice prediction service by Vaisala Ltd. The three year contract for the weather forecast service expires next year and arrangements will be made to go out to tender for a new three year contract.

4. Winter Service Policy and Plan

The Winter Service Policy is presented at Appendix A. Members' attention is directed to section 8.2.4 which sets out the arrangements for parish councils to purchase salt bins. The Winter Service Plan has been updated and discussions have been had with our new contractor Enterprise plc to ensure that plans are aligned. The plan is available for Members to view on request from Kent Highways and Transportation. In addition district plans have been developed in conjunction with district councils across the county and these will be used together with the policy and plan to deliver the winter service.

5. Equality impact assessment

As reported in July, an initial screening has been carried out on the winter service policy and work is in progress for a full impact assessment to be made and the results of this will be reported to a future meeting of this committee.

6. Conclusion

The Winter Service Policy and Plan set out Kent Highways and Transportation's arrangements to deliver a winter service across Kent. Both documents have been updated and revised. This includes the provision for parish councils to purchase, manage and maintain salt bins.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee accept the Winter Service Policy and Plan as amended September 2011

Background documents:

None

Contact details

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