

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

REVIEW OF WINTER MAINTENANCE SEASON 2012/13

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Winter Service during the 2012/13 winter maintenance season.
- 1.2 To promote further consultations with the local business community and to explore further community green bins within the urban areas of Scunthorpe.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 According to the Met Office, the UK mean temperature for the winter 2012/13 was 3.3°C. This was 0.4°C below the long term average.
- 2.2 Throughout the season, we carried out 110 full salting operations compared to 58 for 2011/12 and 77 for 2010/11. This increased the cost of the Winter Service from previous winters by 9%. We used 9,285 tonnes of salt and we are currently ordering sufficient tonnages to stock our new salt storage area at the new Billet Lane Depot, Scunthorpe.
- 2.3 A desktop review of the 2011/12 season was carried out. The findings were that the Winter Service Policy, developed in 2011, was still robust and would apply equally to the 2012/13 season.
- 2.4 Given the difficulties, the season in the main went well. There are a number of local businesses who felt that they had missed out on the previous consultation back in 2011. It is therefore suggested that we carry out further consultation with the business community during this summer.
- 2.5 It is also necessary to strengthening the staffing arrangements on the Winter Service rotas so that we have cover to cater for all situations and emergencies that may arise.
- 2.6 The community “green” bin system, introduced in 2011, worked well in the rural areas where Town and Parish Councils were able to take on the responsibility. We have been unable to agree a similar system in Scunthorpe. It is proposed that we look again at introducing community “green” bins within the residential areas of the town.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 **Option 1** is to retain the existing policy as it currently stands.
- 3.2 **Option 2** is to retain the existing policy and carry out a further consultation with the business sector and further explore the introduction of the community “green” bin system within the residential areas of Scunthorpe.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1. It is suggested that to retain the existing policy (option 1) is not a viable option as we need to build and strengthen the existing policy.
- 4.2. **Option 2** Allows us to develop the policy further in relation to the needs of the business community and support the delivery of our Winter Service arrangements at a local level with the “green” bin initiative.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 Financial

The cost of providing the Winter Service varies considerably. The service looks to balance any significant cost variations with other planned maintenance works.

5.2 Staffing

Staffing remains a fundamental issue for the service delivery aspect. We need to consider and to learn from the issues surrounding the staffing of the previous season and develop as described in para 2.5.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 6.1 No IIA has been written for this report.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 7.1 We consulted widely in developing the current Winter Service Policy, taking account of any feedback received. We will consider any comments and observations received during the new consultation period and if necessary amend the Policy.
- 7.2 It is pleasing to report that we have received a number of positive messages of support from both residents and Town and Parish Councils in regard to the success of this years operations and only a few expressing reservations.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the overview of the winter service provided during the 2012/13 winter maintenance season.
- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member approves the progress of a further consultation exercise with the business community.
- 8.3 That a further report is presented for consideration by the Cabinet Member making recommendations as to how we will prepare for the 2013/14 winter season in September.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
Winter Maintenance Policy 2011- 12