

REPORT FROM: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES

TO: EXECUTIVE

DATE: 30th JANUARY 2025

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MUTUAL AID ARRANGEMENTS – WINTER MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an overview of the collaborative arrangement relating to the provision of localised highway winter maintenance services on footways

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information within the report be noted.
2. That Members confirm whether the Borough Council should continue to support the Highway Authority when requested

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are fully advised on the Borough Council's priorities and commitments under the collaborative arrangement.
2. Members are advised of the support provide by the Highway authority which assists the Borough Council in delivering winter maintenance services in areas of need

ISSUE

1. At the West Craven Committee held on the 7th January Members reported on the County Council's response to the recent bad weather and the considerable reliance on PBC to fulfil its responsibilities e.g. gritting pavements, treating car parks etc. when there was the option of having contractors on standby in periods of bad weather
2. During the meeting Members were advised of the wider mutual aid agreement covering Lancashire and updated on the collaborative agreement between District/ Borough Councils and the County Council in relation to winter maintenance activities.
3. Members were advised on the detail of the collaborative agreement which included the provision of rocksalt from the County Council and the redeployment of available street cleansing and Landscape Maintenance staff to winter maintenance activities during periods of snowfall
4. Members resolved that
 - The current mutual aid arrangement between LCC and PBC in times of severe weather be referred to the Executive for consideration
 - That the Engineering Manager be asked to express grave disappointment at the inadequate winter maintenance provided by LCC; that they be asked to learn from their experience this time round and the reported problems at various locations to improve their future response to snow and ice in West Craven.
5. Records show the Executive supported the joint working between the Council and Lancashire County Council when the request was considered in 2010.
6. Since 2010 the Borough Council has continued to support delivery of a winter maintenance service to priority and secondary footways when resources allow and only on completion of it's own priorities such as the treatment of carparks and other high footfall pedestrian areas
7. In return for the Borough Council's continued support the Highway Authority provides approximately 30 tonnes of rocksalt to the District Council for its use. The rock salt is replenished on request as and when County Council stock levels allow.
8. No equipment or other financial support is provided by the County Council
9. The collaborative support is provided by the redeployment of staff who would be unable to complete their substantive roles during period of snowfall and freezing conditions. The Borough Council does not incur additional costs for providing support.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report

Financial: The Borough Council does not incur any costs in redeploying staff from their substantive roles to winter maintenance activities. Rocksalt was quoted at £125.00 per tonne. 30 tonnes would cost this Council £3,750.00 if purchased directly for its own priorities. Rocksalt prices vary according to season and demand.

Legal: None arising directly from this report. A 2016 Memorandum of Understanding states that the County Council will indemnify the Borough Council fully against all claims and actions which relate to the discharge by the Borough Council of the statutory functions of the County Council and which are not due to the act default or negligence of the Borough Council, their employees or agents, or by any other circumstances within their control.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report. Withdrawal of support could impact the County Council in delivering its statutory service and place vulnerable residents at risk of injury during prolonged periods of inclement weather

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDICES

None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None