

## **THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Title of meeting:** Scrutiny Management Panel

**Subject:** Snow Wardens

**Date of meeting:** 6 March 2015

**Report by:** Head of Transport and Environment

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Requested by** - the City Council 20 January 2015

### **2. Purpose**

The Notice of Motion (a) Volunteer Snow Wardens was proposed by Councillor Michael Andrewes and Seconded by Councillor Lynne Stagg. It stated:

The council notes:

Many areas such as Lambeth, Waltham Forest, Edinburgh and Telford and Wrekin now operate a scheme for “snow angels” or snow volunteer wardens. This provides basic equipment and training to enable people to clear their pavements and help in times of snow and bad weather

This would give the city added resilience in times of bad weather and harness people’s desire to help out in these times and help reduce deaths during winter months when vulnerable and older people are at risk.

The costs for this are likely to be fairly minimal and mostly capital expenditure in equipment and it would help prevent other costs to the council and public services.

**The council therefore resolves:**

**To ask the Scrutiny Management Panel to undertake a short “task and finish” review of the idea and make a recommendation on whether and how to implement it and report to cabinet as quickly as possible given that there might be bad weather soon.**

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### 3. Information Requested

Portsmouth City Council currently has a 25 year Highways PFI contract which looks after all the roads and footways in the event of severe weather. This includes snow, heavy rain/flooding and high winds.

In the event of Snow, 4 gritting lorries are deployed to clear the roads and Colas operatives are relocated from their normal duties to clear the footways. These total approx.120 as below include:-

- Cleansing operatives x75
- Supervisors x 4
- Highway engineers x 25
- Electrical engineers x 8
- Grounds Maintenance x 8

Four inspectors will also carry out continual inspections across the city.

In addition to this, in the event of snow the Highways PFI Team at PCC open up a **Snow Response Room** on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor core 2-3. Here the team coordinate communications and clearance works with Colas and other PCC services to ensure a joined up approach across the whole city. This can include clearing routes for delivering meals to vulnerable people.

The team in the Snow response Room will also co-ordinate PCC staff, who also are unable to carry out their daily duties plus volunteers to assist with the footway clearances. (ie parking officers, enforcement officers).The PFI team have the following equipment in storage for use in the event of snow.

- Snow Pushers x 5
- Rucksacks (incl maps, risk assessments,) x6
- Gloves x 20
- Shoe grippers x 20
- Brooms x 10
- Hand salt spreaders x10
- Orange large shovels x 10
- Black large shovels x 10
- Day to day shovels x 29

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Signed by Head of Transport and Environment