

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROJECT BRIEF.

REVIEW INTO THE HAZARDS POSED BY ICY PAVEMENTS IN THE CITY

1. Background.

This topic was allocated to the panel, via the following notice of motion, heard at the Council meeting, held on 9 February 2010:

Proposed: Councillor Luke Stubbs

Seconded: Councillor Steve Wemyss

This council notes with concern the hazard posed by icy pavements in Portsmouth during the recent cold spell.

This council further notes that in some instances, householders and business owners were discouraged from clearing snow outside their properties by the potential personal injury liability they would have been exposed to by so doing.

This council is concerned at the out of control Health and Safety culture in this country.

This council therefore resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Central Government seeking a change in the legislative framework to exempt householders and tenants from liability where they have attempted to clear snow around their properties.

The Council resolved that scrutiny should look at this, consider the current guidance, and report back within 3 months.

2. Objectives of the referral.

- To be informed of, and if necessary make recommendations for improving, the winter maintenance of footways, with regard to measures taken to prevent and treat slippery conditions caused by heavy snowfall;
- To clarify the current guidance on Health and Safety issues, with regard to the personal injury liability of householders and business owners who clear ice and snow from public footways. To also look at any specific issues posed by heavy snowfall to different groups within the community.
- To clarify the grit supply issues and management thereof which occurred during the heavy snowfall in January 2010; and
- To make recommendations with regard to offering the public practical advice for similar weather conditions in the future.

3. Possible witnesses.

- The Highways Manager
- A representative from Legal Services
- A representative from Colas

4. Work plan & proposed meeting date.

5 March 2010 - The panel will gather evidence and prepare a response to Council. This response will be outside of the three month period, due to Council not meeting during the purdah period.