

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Scrutiny Management Panel

Subject: Winter Maintenance Operational Plan 2013/14

Date of meeting: 5th November 2013

Report by: Head of Transport and Environmental Services

Wards affected: All Wards

1. Requested by

The Scrutiny Management Panel.

2. Purpose

To provide information to the Scrutiny Management Panel regarding Portsmouth City Council's arrangements for dealing with events of snow and ice within the city.

3. Information Requested

The Railway and Transport Safety Act 2003 places a duty on a Highway Authority under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to ensure, **so far as reasonably practicable**, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. This legal requirement has been included in the PFI contract as an Authorised Highway Function and transferred to Ensign/Colas, the PFI Service Provider. Each year Colas provides a Winter Maintenance Operational Plan (WMOP) that is approved by the Traffic and Transportation Committee and distributed amongst key staff at Portsmouth City Council, Colas and neighbouring authorities/service providers. The winter maintenance period runs between 1st October and 30th April.

The WMOP helps to ensure safe passage along a prioritised network of roads and footways and that in periods of prolonged or severe weather conditions a programme of treatment will be extended across the highway network, so far as reasonably practicable.

The WMOP covers the City's core responsibilities and is updated in the summer of each year to take into account lessons learnt from the previous winter. In the case of extreme conditions, the WMOP should be read in conjunction with emergency and business continuity plans.

A brief summary of the key lessons learnt from the snow conditions that occurred in January 2013 is listed below:-

- A dry run exercise in the summer last year proved very useful in that it proved some concerns around equipment. This was resolved in time for the winter.
- Improved communication required with the Police to ensure that PCC/Colas are informed when the Police choose to close roads. Also improved communication required with Fareham Borough Council with regards to cross boundary roads.
- Having two Duty Officers worked well and has been written into the plan.
- More powerful horns are being installed on the gritters and deflectors for the ploughs to make road users/pedestrians aware of their presence.

The lessons learnt from the snow conditions in January 2013 have been included in the revised WMOP and it also reflects the recommendation contained in the independent review document published by the Department for Transport in July 2010 and the Code of Practice for Well Maintained Highways.

The WMOP for 2013/14 was approved by the Traffic and Transportation Committee on 26th September 2013.

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Signed by (Head of Service)

Appendices:
Winter Maintenance Operational Plan 2013/14

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location