

Meeting: Southport Area Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 September 2010

Title of Report: WINTER SERVICE

Report of:

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Contact Officer:

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This report contains	Yes	No
CONFIDENTIAL Information/		√
EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report DELEGATED?	√	

Purpose of Report

To respond to Area Committee request that the Cabinet Member - Technical Services be requested to explore the possibility of gritting roads and pavements on approaches to schools.

Recommendation(s)

Area Committee is requested to note the report

Corporate Objective Monitoring

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2.	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3.	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5.	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8.	Children and Young People		√	

Financial Implications

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources – allocation requested from Southport Area Committee budget				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

Legal Services

List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

Network Management Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members will be aware of their request from their meeting dated Wednesday 3rd February 2010, minute 132, that the Cabinet Member - Technical Services be requested to explore the possibility of gritting roads and pavements on approaches to schools.
- 1.2 Officers have discussed the request with the Cabinet Member – Technical Services who agreed that an analysis be undertaken to consider this additional provision.

2.0 Legal Issues

- 2.1 As part of the process, legal advice has been sought with the Legal Department considering the implications of the request. Their conclusion and advice was that the fundamental basis of the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is related to clearly identified priorities for the whole Borough based on road hierarchy and therefore any subsequent revision must be consistent across the Borough. For clarity, if the policy is revised to include some specific additions, then those revisions must be consistently applied across the whole Borough.
- 2.2 The Cabinet Member - Technical Services would therefore need to consider the request from Southport Area Committee, in light of legal advice, for the possibility of gritting roads and pavements on approaches to schools throughout Sefton. Officers have therefore considered the request from this perspective.

3.0 Analysis

- 3.1 Sefton currently operates 8 carriageway gritting routes using 8 gritters and 5 footway gritting routes using 3 gritting units. Consideration has therefore been given to the request in both individual elements of the service.
- 3.2 Of the 107 schools within the Borough boundary, 51 are currently on the carriageway gritting routes and 56 are not. This is based on existing routes passing at least one elevation of the school. The footway gritting routes are targeted at town and commercial centres; therefore school coverage is extremely limited.
- 3.3 Analysis has had to consider not only the addition of the individual roads past schools that are currently not gritted, but also the additional roads which would be required to be added to continue on a circuitous route as is currently the case.

4.0 Findings

- 4.1 The exercise has resulted in the following findings:
- 4.2 The inclusion of all schools added on to the existing gritting routes would require the purchase of an additional 2 carriageway gritters and 4 footway gritters. Based on the current market this cost would be in the region of £150,000 (reconditioned carriageway gritters and new footway vehicles, gritting units and trailers (N.B. there is no market available for reconditioned footway equipment)).
- 4.3 To support this additional service, the annual cost for the provision of salt is estimated to be in the region of £16,000 (clearly this is weather dependent). Members should be aware of Government guidelines to reduce salt usage as the country struggles to cope with the demand should we encounter another season as severe as the last two.
- 4.4 In addition, there would be annual costs to cover standby, call out, repairs, servicing and maintenance. The individual costs of these elements in the existing service contract are commercially sensitive; however overall, the annual commitment would be in the region of £220,000 with some elements of this being weather sensitive.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Officers have discussed the analysis and findings with Cabinet Member – Technical Services. It is clear that, due to the financial situation the Authority finds itself in as a result of proposed cuts to funding, implementation of the results of this report would be, at this current time, unachievable. Members are therefore requested to note the report with a view to future consideration should the financial situation change.