

**Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee  
(Calling – In)**

**15 October 2012**

Report of the Assistant Director, Governance and ICT

**Called-in Item: Winter Maintenance Arrangements for 2012/13**

**Summary**

1. This report sets out the reasons for the call-in of the decision made by the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services at a Decision Session held in private on 25 September 2012 in relation to the Winter Maintenance Arrangements for 2012/13. The report to the meeting informed the Cabinet Member of the work undertaken to review the Winter Maintenance policy in preparation for the next winter maintenance period from November 2012. The report also outlined the changes recommended to maintain a cost effective, efficient winter maintenance service and sought approval to this approach for amending the policy.

This cover report sets out the powers and role of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to dealing with the call-in.

**Background**

2. The Decision Sheet issued after the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Decision Session is attached as Annex A to this report. This sets out the decision taken by the Cabinet Member on the called-in item. The original report to the Decision Session on the called-in item is attached as Annex B to this report.
3. The Cabinet Member's decision has been called in by Cllrs Aspden, Ayre and Reid for review by the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) (Calling-In), in accordance with the constitutional requirements for call-in. The reasons given for the call-in are on the following grounds:

*Councillors Aspden, Ayre and Reid would like to call this decision in for the following reasons:*

- The plans would see overall salt bin provision in York fall from around 369 full bins to around 199. In a bad winter this cut will have a significant and detrimental impact.*
- The report states that a thorough review of salt bin locations will be undertaken for the winter of 2013/14. It therefore seems irrational to withdraw the bin provision before this review has taken place and without thoroughly consulting residents or local councillors. The mistakes made over the removal of 1-in-4 of York's dog and litter bins seem to be being repeated.*
- Residents will not know which salt bins are full and which salt bins are empty until they need to use them.*
- Leaving the bins out empty is likely to lead to a further deterioration in their condition and make it harder to bring them back into use next winter. Already, due to Labour's decision to leave out the bins over the summer, a number of bins are in a poor condition with some having been vandalised. Leaving 170 out empty and unused will not help this.*
- No information on the locations of the salt bins was provided in the report – are the remaining (full) bins evenly distributed?*
- We disagree that "there is no longer finance available to maintain 170 salt bins". The finance has been withdrawn and we believe the relatively small sum of money involved could be found from elsewhere in the council budget. We are happy to provide further information on this point.*
- The future of the Snow Wardens scheme is unclear from this report. We would seek some clarification on this before the report is approved.*

## **Consultation**

4. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the calling-in Members have been invited to attend and/or speak at the Call-In meeting, as appropriate.

## **Options**

5. The following options are available to CSMC (Calling-In) Members in relation to dealing with this call-in, in accordance with the constitutional and legal requirements under the Local Government Act 2000:
  - a. To decide that there are no grounds to make specific recommendations to the Cabinet Member in respect of the report. If this option is chosen, the original decisions taken on the item by the Cabinet Member at his Decision Session held on 25 September 2012 will be confirmed and will take effect from the date of the CSMC (Calling-In) meeting; or
  - b. To make specific recommendations to the Cabinet Member on the report, in light of the reasons given for the call-in. If this option is chosen, the matter will be reconsidered by the Cabinet at a meeting of Cabinet (Calling-In) to be held on 16 October 2012.

## **Analysis**

6. Members need to consider the reasons for call-in and the report to the Cabinet Member and form a view on whether there is a basis to make specific recommendations to the Cabinet Member in respect of the report.

## **Council Plan**

7. There are no direct implications for this call-in in relation to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities for 2011-15.

## **Implications**

8. There are no known Financial, HR, Legal, Property, Equalities, or Crime and Disorder implications in relation to the following in terms of dealing with the specific matter before Members; namely, to determine and handle the call-in.

## **Risk Management**

9. There are no risk management implications associated with the call in of this matter.

**Recommendations:**

10. Members are asked to consider the call-in and reasons for it and decide whether they wish to confirm the decision made by the Cabinet Member or refer the matter back for reconsideration and make specific recommendations on the report to the Cabinet.

**Reason:** To enable the called-in matter to be dealt with efficiently and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 5.10.12

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Annexes**

Annex A – Decision Sheet of the Cabinet Member on the called-item.  
Annex B – Report to the Cabinet Member Decision Session on 25  
September 2012

**Background Papers**

None