



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION FORM

PROPOSED TOPIC: SALT BINS/PAVEMENT, ROAD & PATH GRITTING			
COUNCILLOR(S) REGISTERING THE TOPIC: Cllr D Bowgett			
<p>SECTION 1: ABOUT THE TOPIC <i>Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:</i></p> <p>“In the last week I and other members have received a number of complaints particularly about footpaths throughout York, but also about some roads and cycle paths, which have not been gritted despite the long time that has elapsed since the original snowfalls, and also about the positioning of salt bins in the city. At present many of the latter are funded by ward committees but this decision is controversial, and the overall provision haphazard.</p> <p>This subject has proved to be very important to York residents as many have fallen on the snow and ice and others have been forced onto the roads, often major ones, with the associated danger this involves. Some tell me or colleagues that they are unable to leave their homes to go shopping or pay their bills.</p> <p>Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached. <i>As a general rule, topics will only proceed to review if they meet 3 of the criteria below. However, where it is adequately demonstrated that a topic is of significant public interest and fits with the first criteria but does not meet 3, Scrutiny Management Committee may still decide to allocate the topic for review. Please indicate which 3 criteria the review would meet and the relevant scrutiny roles:</i></p>			
✓	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)	✓	✓	✓
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction	✓	✓	✓
In keeping with corporate priorities	✓	✓	✓
Level of Risk	✓	✓	✓
Service Efficiency		✓	

National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context

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Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do you think it should achieve?

“The review should address the dissatisfaction expressed over how the Council has handled the current severe winter weather episode, and restore public confidence that the Council has an appropriate policy and operational arrangements to handle extended periods of severe icy weather.

It should make recommendations for policy adjustments and operational arrangements for future prolonged spells of severe winter weather are required, taking into account public views on the issue, and those of the adversely affected in particular.

Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.

This information will be used to help prepare a remit for the review should Scrutiny Management Committee decide the topic meets the criteria e.g. How much recycling is presently being done and ways of increasing it

The review should first look at the how the present gritting policy has been applied in the extended period of winter weather, whether enough staff and technical resources, and of the right type, were available to implement the existing policy initially and then what decisions were made when and by whom in terms of additional actions required to address the continuing nature of this severe winter weather episode. The review should examine how the extended period of icy pavements and roads and the Council's policy has impacted on public safety and on the lives of the elderly, infirm and disabled and any others who are or feel unable to safely go out. It should then look at whether the current policy's apparent neglect of pavements and other foot/cycle paths and roads outside the designated city centre paths for over a week is adequate. I would like to see if any priority is given to main walking (& cycling) routes into the city and to local shops. I would also like to see if areas where there is a known elderly population are given any priority.

“I think a contingency plan needs to be implemented so that when the city is faced with heavy snowfall and/or icy footpaths in the future we can act quickly to clear as many as possible.

I would also hope to reduce the number of complaints.

Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.

Involving the right people throughout the process is crucial to any successful review e.g. CYC Commercial Services / other local councils who have reviewed best practice for recycling / other organisations who use recycled goods

“Could involve the PCT, York Hospital Trust & emergency services in understanding the level of accidents and injuries resulting from untreated roads and footpaths, and the Older People’s assembly, disabled groups, and the voluntary sector generally in understanding the implications for those trapped in their homes due to the prolonged nature of this severe weather and absence of safe walking surfaces. Local cycling groups and motoring interests could comment on the issues for cyclists and car drivers.

Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?

This is not about who might be involved (addressed above) but how the review might be conducted e.g. sending a questionnaire to each household to gather information on current recycling practices and gathering information on how recycling is carried out in Cities similar to York

I think we should have a report from Neighbourhood Services on the current policy and see if any improvements can be made.

The review should be undertaken as quickly as possible to feed into how future episodes are addressed, using a short series of meetings round the areas identified above and certainly be completed no later than late summer.

I have asked residents to write to me with their concerns and Members may also be able to identify problems.

Estimate the timescale for completion.

Please circle below the nearest timescale group, in your estimation, based on the information you have given in this form.

- (a) 1-3 months;
- (b) **3-6 months;** or ✓
- (c) 6-9 months

PLEASE ENCLOSE ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS OR OTHER INFORMATION YOU FEEL MIGHT BE USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TOPIC FOR CONSIDERATION.

Copies of letters and emails from members of the public could be provided