

## Policy Development Scrutiny Committee



Date	03 November 2011
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson (Chairman) Councillor Leonard Davies (Vice-Chairman)  Ben Aitken, Frank Andrews, Susan Ashton, Julie Brickles, David Chedd, Peter Collins, John Davies, David Donaldson, Charlie Duffy, Edward Nash, Richard Redcliffe
Other Councillors	Sue Fazackerley; Tim Ashton
Officers	Kathy Winstanley; Annie Womack
Others	Andy Ashcroft (LCC); representatives from Wesham Parish Council and Weeton Parish Council

### Public Platform

There were no members of the public wishing to speak

#### 1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. There were no declarations.

#### 2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 Sept 2011 as a correct record for signature by the chairman, subject to the following amendment:

That Cllr Leonard Davies is added to the list of councillors nominated to the Car Parking Strategy Task and Finish Group .

#### 3. Substitute members

Cllr Peter Collins for Cllr Simon Cox

#### 4. Winter Service 2011/2012 Briefing

Mr Andy Ashcroft, Public Realm Manager from LCC, gave a briefing to the committee on the Winter Service in Fylde.

He explained that the "Winter Service" is the term used to express the LCC's duty to ensure that they fulfil their responsibility, to ensure that people can use the highways safely without being endangered by ice and snow, so far as is reasonably practicable.

He described for members the ways in which this is achieved, using rock salt, and how much they intend to have in reserves for the coming winter, based on their experience of the previous year. He also said that work would continue to try to identify options for increasing salt storage capacity. Their job is to be prepared, even though it is not possible to predict how harsh this coming winter will be. He said that the last 2 winters had been bad, and if this year was also bad, then it would be a noticeable trend which would help them to shape future winter services.

Mr Ashcroft covered the cost of the service, and what resource was required in usual circumstances, and what additional resources were available for severe weather. In particular there were stocks of de-icer to be used in exceptionally severe weather, at temperatures below which rock salt ceases to be effective. He also talked about having made use of suitable equipment supplied by the local agricultural community at times when county council resources were stretched.

Mr Ashcroft spoke about a successful pilot scheme which LCC had entered into with some parish councils, although he made it clear that it was simply not possible to grit every road, and he acknowledged that the rural areas presented particular problems. He outlined for members the priority road and footway networks. He also drew members' attention to the additional routes which had been added to the priority network in Fylde.

Members raised several issues. Mr Ashcroft was asked whether the grit bins which had been stolen last year would be replaced. He said he would look into the matter. He was also asked whether he could supply useful self-help hints for members of the public, and also some guidance for shopkeepers. Mr Ashcroft told members that the government had produced the "snow code" which contained the overall principles of what people can do and could be accessed online.

It was queried whether the de-icer referred to was a pollution risk and Mr Ashcroft agreed that it was, but probably no more so than rock salt.

Members had queries about specific areas, streets and footways, and he agreed to look into their concerns and get back to those members individually.

Representatives of the Parish councils spoke about their areas, and expressed concerns about access into and out of their villages, and were particularly worried that the smaller parishes were overlooked. They asked whether grit bins would be supplied to their local schools. Mr Ashcroft said that there was an initiative to work with parish councils to develop local pilot projects, and if anyone wanted to discuss that they should contact him direct. He also confirmed that they would be working with schools this year.

*(For anyone who is interested in obtaining more information which will address many of the issues, please go to [www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter) and follow - what we do – where we salt – gritting route map (bottom right tab) this will show the route information in map form.)*

After the debate the committee RESOLVED:

- 1 To thank Mr Ashcroft and County Cllr Tim Ashton for attending and to note the briefing.

*There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial.*

#### 5. Appointment of Task & Finish Group to Review Council Assets Let at Below Market Value

The Chairman reported that a request had been received to appoint a Task & Finish Group to undertake a review of assets let at below market value.

The Chairman nominated some councillors to sit on the Group and the committee RESOLVED:

1. To appoint a time-limited Task and Finish Group to look at the matter in more detail, and to report back to a later committee and to Cabinet.
2. To appoint to the Task and Finish Group the following members:  
Cllrs Fabian Craig-Wilson; Len Davies; Julie Brickles; David Chedd and Peter Wood

*There was no recorded vote as the Chairman decided that the matter was not controversial.*