



Leicester  
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

## Appendix D

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Held: THURSDAY, 3 MARCH 2011 at 5.30pm

P.R.E.S.E.N.T.

Councillor Bhavsar – Vice-Chair (in the Chair)

Councillor Aqbany  
Councillor Joshi

Councillor Bajaj  
Councillor Newcombe

Also In Attendance

Councillor Westley

Cabinet Member for Housing

### **160. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clair, Grant and Scuplak.

### **161. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interests they had in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Aqbany declared a personal interest in Item 7 'Review of Housing Allocation Policy' and Item 8 'Customer Access to Leicester HomeChoice' as his mother was a Council lessee.

Councillor Joshi declared a personal interest in Item 7 'Review of Housing Allocation Policy' and Item 8 'Customer Access to Leicester HomeChoice' as his sister was a Council tenant and his partner worked within Adults and Housing.

Councillor Newcombe declared a personal interest in Item 7 'Review of Housing Allocation Policy' and Item 8 'Customer Access to Leicester HomeChoice' as his partner worked within Adults and Housing and he was currently on the housing waiting list.

**169. POLICY FOR CONSERVATION OF ROAD SALT STOCK LEVELS**

The Strategic Director, Development, Culture and Regeneration submitted a report that asked members to consider a policy concerning Conservation of Road Salt Stock Levels.

An officer from the Highway Maintenance Group introduced the report to Members and explained that the Council's supply of road salt had proved resilient during the last 3 winters and the City had not run out of salt. However, national salt supply shortages meant difficulties had arisen in obtaining replacement stock in good time. He stated that following the severe recent winter weather, the government advice is that local authorities should prepare a Road Salt Conservation Policy to deal with possible shortfalls. The Council's proposed approach assumed a phased withdrawal of elements of the winter service based on the prevailing risk factors and salt stock levels. Members heard that it was intended to protect key major roads as part of the policy.

The officer reported that the need for the application of salt conversion measures depended on the degree of risk that arose from a number of factors including the current stock level, the weather forecast, the time in the season, expected restocking dates and the potential for delays and actual usage rates.

Following further clarity around the prioritisation for road gritting, the Board were informed that when road salt levels reached a particular point, certain elements of the service were reduced, with secondary routes being omitted firstly. It was further stated that due to funding constraints, contributions towards the provision of grit bins via ward budgets were welcomed, and in such cases, the Council would be responsible for associated ongoing maintenance costs.

In light of an anticipated increase in expenditure on road salt, it was questioned whether the authority could presently purchase a full capacity of stock, prior to the rise in price. In response, the officer explained that 1,000 tonnes of road salt was ordered in November which would take the total stock to approximately 2,000 tonnes, and agreed that it was necessary to maximise the level of stock of road salt.

It was also questioned whether officers considered altering the prioritisation of road gritting as a result of accident rates. It was explained that such trends could potentially guide changes to the classification of particular roads, and that a review is undertaken annually to determine 'hot-spot' areas with a proportionally high number of accidents.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted and the recommendations contained within it be endorsed.