

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	21 MAY 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE WINTER WEATHER AND THE RESPONSE TO IT
REPORT BY:	COMMITTEE MANAGER (SCRUTINY)

Purpose

To consider the impact of the winter weather in 2009/10, the response by the Council, Partners and others to the problems it posed and identify matters that should form the basis of a report to Cabinet in sufficient time to build any recommendations into future winter planning.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

(a) the findings arising from the meeting be used to inform the Committee's report and recommendations to Cabinet; and

(b) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to seek such clarification and further information as they consider necessary.

Introduction and Background

1. On 8 February the Committee agreed to a request from the Executive to undertake a review of the impact of the severe winter weather. It was requested that the review be completed and the report submitted to Cabinet before the end of July 2010 in order to give sufficient time to build any recommendations into future winter planning.
2. The terms of reference are:
 - To review the impact of the recent severe winter weather on communities in the County and across the public services including partners in Health, Schools, Police and the Voluntary Sector.
 - To establish what lessons can be learnt, what was done right and what can be improved.
 - To identify whether there are any bureaucratic barriers which should be removed at times of communities under stress?
 - To consider recommendations for partners locally and nationally.
3. The Committee has sought evidence from Herefordshire Council Councillors, Town and Parish Councils and a range of Partners and others.
4. Members of the Committee have been presented with all the evidence received to date.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tim Brown Committee Manager Scrutiny on 01432 260239

Reports received from service areas that are to be the focus of scrutiny at this meeting are appended together with a summary of key issues that have been raised by consultees.

5. A number of aspects have already been answered by the written responses received and these will not need to be discussed in detail at the meeting.
6. Following the meeting a report will be drafted with recommendations to Cabinet. This will encompass issues discussed at the meeting and those on which sufficient information has already been received. That report will be submitted to the Committee for approval in July.
7. It is proposed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to seek such clarification and further information as they consider necessary to inform the final report.

Community Impact

8. The winter weather had an impact on the Community as a whole with a bearing on a number of the priority themes within the Council and NHS Herefordshire's Joint Corporate Plan including Economic Development and Enterprise, Healthier Communities and Older People, Children and Young People, Safer Communities and organisational improvement and greater efficiency. This will be reflected in presenting the Committee's final report and recommendations.

Financial/Legal/Risk Management Implications

9. These depend on the findings to be included in the final report and will be reflected in presenting that report and its recommendations.

Consultees

10. Comments have been invited from the following by correspondence: Herefordshire Council Councillors, Town and Parish Councils, Emergency Services, all Council Directorates, Bus Companies, Hereford NHS Hospitals Trust, National Farmers Union, schools via representative bodies, the Voluntary Sector and from the public via Herefordshire Matters.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary of issues raised by Herefordshire Councillors, Parish Councils, and the public.

Appendix 2 – Submission by Children's and Young People's Directorate

Appendix 3 – Submission by Adult Social Care, and Primary Care Trust Provider Services and Primary Care Trust Commissioning

Appendix 4 – Submission by the Council's Highways Service

Appendix 5 – Submission by ICT Services

Appendix 6 – Submission by Communications Unit

Appendix 7 – Submission by the Joint Emergency Planning Unit

Background Papers

None identified.