



Belfast City Council

Report to: Health and Environmental Services Committee

Subject: **Snow and Ice Clearance**

Date: 4th February, 2009

Reporting Officer: Mr. Sam Skimin, Head of Cleansing Services, ext 5273

Contact Officer: Mr. Sam Skimin, Head of Cleansing Services, ext 5273

Relevant Background Information

At Committee on 6th February 2008, Members were advised of the issues surrounding clearance of snow and ice from footways in the city centre. Members agreed to progress the issue and purchase equipment to facilitate snow and ice clearance if certain conditions were met. (An extract of the minute is attached as appendix 1)

Key Issues

The conditions Members agreed were as follows:

- (i) the completion of a suitable form of agreement with the Roads Service, to be drafted by the Director of Legal Services;
- (ii) confirmation by the Council's Insurers that no additional premium would be required; and
- (iii) the Department of the Environment agreeing to sanction the incurring of any expenditure relating to the implementation of the agreement.

I would advise Members that we have now signed a suitable agreement with the DRD Roads Service, it has also been confirmed with our insurers that we would incur no additional premium and the DoE have also given sanction to incur the expenditure necessary for implementation of the agreement.

Members opted for option 1 from the 6th February report which entailed the purchase of snow clearance attachments for our existing HAKO mini sweepers, provided the cost of purchase could be found from within Cleansing Services existing budget for 2008/2009.

I would advise members that the equipment has been purchased from within existing budgets and was delivered in January, 2009. We are now in a position to respond to any requests from the DRD Roads Service to undertake snow and ice clearance within the agreed city centre area. We would, however, only undertake such clearance if we were unable to use our staff on our normal cleansing work, for example, in the case of snow lying on the ground. A map of the snow clearance area agreed by Committee is attached as appendix 2

Resource Implications

The cost of the snow clearance attachments was £21,252
--

Recommendation

The Committee is requested to note this improvement in our service to the public.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Health and Environmental Services Committee minutes of 6 February, 2008
--

Appendix 2 - Map of snow clearance area in the city centre.
