

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**SNOW CLEARANCE CHALLENGE PANEL - DRAFT SCOPE**

July 2011

1	<b>SUBJECT</b>	Snow Clearance Challenge Panel
2	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
3	<b>REVIEW GROUP</b>	<p><b>Councillors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Chana</li> <li>• Cllr Hall</li> <li>• Cllr Wright</li> <li>• Cllr Mote</li> <li>• Cllr Macleod-Cullinane</li> <li>• Cllr Osborn (Chairman)</li> <li>• Cllr Asante</li> <li>• Cllr Ann Gate</li> <li>• Cllr James</li> <li>• Cllr Kareema Marikar</li> </ul> <p><b>Co-optees:</b></p>
4	<b>AIMS/ OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess the councils gritting policy and consider how areas are prioritised, how grit is distributed and how to make best use of the resources available</li> <li>• To assess whether the current practice in respect of snow clearance could be improved within the confines of limited resources</li> <li>• To consider the Londonwide and national direction and developments in terms of snow clearance policy</li> <li>• To identify examples of good practice in managing the challenges in relation to snow clearance to keep traffic going and people safe</li> <li>• To examine the role of partner organisations in the clearance of snow in the borough and to develop possible options for working better together</li> <li>• To address the possible role Neighbourhood Champions and other key members of the community can play in keeping the community working and safe</li> <li>• To consider how residents could possibly play a role in supporting the borough</li> <li>• To consider how the Communications department and Access Harrow can get the message across about snow clearance</li> </ul>

		<p>and to dispel myths in relation to legalities around the liability. This could help develop guidance on how best to address snow issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider good practice both Londonwide, nationally and internationally</li> </ul>
5	<b>MEASURES OF SUCCESS OF REVIEW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of realistic and viable options within the confines of the resources available to support the councils snow clearance policy in order to keep traffic moving and people safe</li> <li>• Challenge and analyse how we prioritise the clearance of snow</li> <li>• To support the development of an improved policy and communications</li> </ul>
6	<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>The challenge panel will address how the borough can improve the way it deals with heavy snow fall in the future given the difficulties and challenges this has presented on a number of fronts over the past two years.</p> <p>Through the challenge panel it is hoped that potential areas for improvement can be identified to keep the borough working and safe during periods of heavy snowfall.</p>
7	<b>SERVICE PRIORITIES (Corporate/Dept)</b>	<p>This review relates to all four of the Corporate Priorities 2011/12 of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe</li> <li>• United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads</li> <li>• Supporting and protecting people who are most in need</li> <li>• Supporting our Town Centre, our local shopping centres and businesses</li> </ul>
8	<b>REVIEW SPONSOR</b>	Brendon Hills
9	<b>ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER</b>	Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny
10	<b>SUPPORT OFFICER</b>	Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer
11	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT</b>	Scrutiny Team
12	<b>EXTERNAL INPUT</b>	<p>The input of the following may be useful for the challenge panel:</p> <p><b>Stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff involved in the delivery of snow clearance services</li> <li>• Relevant corporate director(s)</li> <li>• Relevant portfolio holder(s)</li> <li>• Other local authorities from comparable boroughs</li> <li>• Residents and members of the public</li> </ul> <p><b>Partner agencies:</b></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Harrow (especially in respect of accessibility to GP surgeries)</li> <li>• North West London Hospitals Trust</li> <li>• Schools and Academies</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Interest groups (including residents groups, disability groups, business groups etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Experts/advisers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative interest groups</li> <li>• Centre for Public Scrutiny</li> <li>• Academic experts</li> <li>• Public policy think tanks</li> </ul>
13	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<p>The challenge panel will involve the gathering of evidence including research, written evidence, evidence from key officers and managers (both internal and external) and questioning the Portfolio Holder and Senior Managers.</p> <p>The challenge panel will be a small focussed piece of work with a follow up meeting to develop recommendations.</p>
14	<b>EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>Heavy snow fall, its clearance and the repercussions has implications not only on the local economy but also on some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The health and social care facilities in the borough are also affected by snowfall.</p> <p>The challenge panel will consider during the course of its work, how equality implications have been taken into account in current policy and practice and consider the possible implications of any changes it recommends.</p> <p>In carrying out the challenge panel, Members will also need to consider its own practices and how it can facilitate all relevant stakeholders in the borough to have their voices heard.</p>
15	<b>ASSUMPTIONS/ CONSTRAINTS</b>	<p>The success of the challenge panel may be dependant on the ability and willingness of officers, partners and stakeholders (as relevant) to participate and contribute fully in this review.</p> <p>Recognising the financial reality is another consideration that should be considered as part of the challenge panel.</p>
16	<b>SECTION 17 IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>The challenge panel will have regard to the possible community safety implications of any recommended changes to policy or practice.</p>
17	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping – July 2011</li> <li>• Challenge Panel - September 2011</li> <li>• Follow up meeting – date TBC</li> </ul>
18	<b>RESOURCE</b>	<p>To be met from existing scrutiny budget. No significant additional</p>

	<b>COMMITMENTS</b>	expenditure is anticipated.
19	<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Fola Irikefe, as advised by the review group.
20	<b>REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<p>Outline of formal reporting process:</p> <p>To Corporate Director     <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> throughout the course of the challenge panel and when developing recommendations</p> <p>To Portfolio Holder       <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as a witness at the challenge panel and when developing recommendations</p> <p>To CSB                       <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to be confirmed</p> <p>To O&amp;S                      <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2011</p> <p>To Cabinet                  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> late 2011 / early 2012</p>
21	<b>FOLLOW UP ARRANGEMENTS (proposals)</b>	Monitoring by the Performance and Finance Sub-Committee after six months.