

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Neighbourhood Snow Warden – Functions and Funding**

#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The idea of the Snow Warden scheme originated in Calgary in Canada, where a group of people known as Snow Angels commit to helping other more vulnerable members of the community in cases of severe weather.
- 1.2 Development and support for volunteering across our Co Operative Council model is being actively encouraged, there is also a continuous flow of new people coming forward to offer their time and look for varied opportunities to volunteer. In turn, this an ideal time to build on the opportunities available to local residents and possibly employees.
- 1.3 Other councils are trialling similar initiatives, including Lambeth and Sandwell and this is the first time we will formally roll out a scheme. The main objective will be to direct snow clearing volunteers, and identifying minor roads, cul-de-sacs and other places where the council does not treat for snow and ice. The Snow Wardens will complement the work done by the council's winter maintenance teams and add to the boroughs resilience in extreme weather.

#### **2 The principles on how it will work**

- 2.1 We hope to recruit a network of up to 50 volunteer Neighbourhood Snow Wardens through wards, parish councils, housing associations and voluntary sector organisations who will clear roads and pavements and spread salt, in their local area when there has been excessive snowfall.
- 2.2 In the event of an over or under subscription, preference will be given to those areas which are close to the existing salt spreading routes so establishing a link to the already treated part of the network, to areas with high numbers of vulnerable people or access to local shops and amenities.
- 2.3 Each Neighbourhood Snow Warden will receive training from officers on working on the highway and the Government's Snow Code and the level of responsibility required in the event of a heavy snowfall.
- 2.4 They will be given a brief summary of the council's Winter Maintenance Manual and an insight into how the weather forecasting works. We would ask that they have access to a mobile phone or internet as they would become part of the flow of weather information and decisions on gritting during the periods of extreme weather.
- 2.5 They will be issued with a snow shovel, high visibility vest and gloves. They together with their location will be risk assessed, and where possible, when the bad weather comes, one-tonne bags of salt will be delivered to an agreed

location. Alternative salt supplies will have to be considered on a location by location basis if the positioning of the salt bag is not possible.

- 2.6 Additionally we will work with local residents physically unable to undertake snow clearance but keen to participate, by enabling them to act as a contact to receive and provide information.

### **3 Consultation**

- 3.1 Consultation will be undertaken by the Public Realm section in partnership with voluntary groups, elected wards members, parish and town councils.

### **4 Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 Working with residents to deliver a service which best fits the area contributes to the council's strategic ambitions of creating a Co-operative Council part of which is 'Enabling people to do more to help their own communities and at the same time to help themselves by gaining new skills and experience'.

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 It is estimated that the total cost of each individual set of equipment, plus the training and salt suppliers etc will be no more than £75. With a proposed maximum of 50 wardens, this will give a total annual cost of £3750. It is proposed that this funding is met from existing resources, this will have very little impact on the existing winter maintenance service, but will enhance the resilience at a local level.

### **6 Legal/Insurance Implications**

- 6.1 The main insurance covers held by the Borough of Telford & Wrekin comprising public liability, employers liability and officials indemnity extend to indemnify volunteers whilst acting on behalf of the authority. Cover is subject to the same terms and conditions applying to all other employees.
- 6.2 Our insurers have confirmed that volunteers are covered under the policy subject to the following points:
- Volunteers should receive appropriate training
  - PPE should be provided
  - Risk Assessments should be carried out
  - Volunteers need to be under the direct control of the council.
- 6.3 The Council will not be undertaking site supervision, however direct control will be by pre determining a list of site locations which can be treated by the volunteers.

In addition, the following actions will be required:

Register name and address of volunteers (must renew yearly)

Provide description of task/tasks to be undertaken, how to undertake them and how to work safely.

Get signed form from volunteer to confirm they have received the training and are fit to carryout the duties and retain on record (will need to do refreshers periodically)

Get signed form from volunteer for the equipment provided to them and retain on record.

- 6.4 The council has also regularly reminded members of the public that there is no law stopping people from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside their property, pathways to local public spaces and amenities. People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibilities to be careful themselves.