

All Party Composite

City of Edinburgh Council – 15 March 2018

Items No. 9.11, 9.12, 9.13 and 9.14 – Resilience/Winter Weather Response

Council:

- 1) Notes the unprecedented impact the “Beast from the East” had on the capital and across Scotland and the disruption caused to schools, community centres, travel and the daily lives of residents;
- 2) Notes the dedication shown by council staff involved in the response to the “Beast from the East”. Staff from across the Council dedicated long hours, enormous energy and great skills to keeping the city operating and keeping the residents of Edinburgh well informed during this exceptional weather event;
- 3) Recognises the exceptional efforts made by many in partner agencies and third sector organisations such as the NHS, caring professions, and the emergency services, to continue to care for the city, and in particular for homeless people in the city, during this time;
- 4) Welcomes and values the efforts made by individuals and groups volunteering in their communities, from checking on elderly and vulnerable neighbours, to helping crucial healthcare staff get to work, and clearing snow in residential areas and school communities;
- 5) Welcomes the support of the British Army, in particular Three Rifles based at Dreghorn Barracks, Colinton and 1 Scots based at Penicuik in supporting shift changes for critical staff at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the Western General hospitals while the severe weather continued;
- 6) Congratulates Lothian Buses for its professional and expert service and communications during appalling adverse road conditions and particularly commends bus driver, Charmaine Laurie who deftly avoided an accident at Frogston, Fairmilehead; commends the excellent training she received at Lothian Buses, welcomes the increased attention that Charmaine’s inspiring story has brought for Lothian Buses as the nation’s best bus company, and requests that the Lord Provost recognise her achievements in an appropriate manner;;
- 7) Notes a recent report from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions that, following a gender-balanced budgeting process, many Swedish cities, including Stockholm, now prioritise snow clearing from walkways and cycle paths first, especially

those near bus stops and primary schools, followed by local roads, followed by highways.

- 8) Agrees that the following issues will be considered as part of the forthcoming report to Transport and Environment Committee on the suitability and responsiveness of the current priority system on gritting and snow-clearing, as agreed by Council on 1 February 2018:
- a. any specific issues identified with the clearing / gritting of roads and footways
 - b. how to ensure that footways and cycle paths get due priority in snow-clearing efforts, drawing on examples from elsewhere in the UK and internationally;
 - c. how best to co-ordinate and support the efforts of communities and volunteers.”

Considers the capital city should be proud of the response and the spirit in which it faced the challenges of the severe weather.”

Moved by Cllr Jason Rust

Seconded by Cllr Chas Booth