Executive Summary

Title of policy/decision

Winter Service Review – Snow Clearing Farmers Rates

Date

Enter date submitted to Equalities & Partnerships Team

July 2023

Policy/decision type

Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

Overview of policy/decision

Essex County Council has a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice and to remove obstructions resulting from the accumulation of snow. In Essex this is known as the 'Winter Service'. During a harsh winter, typically over 2000 miles of roads in Essex (about 40% of our road network) may be treated by our snow clearing contractors, mainly farmers and agricultural contractors, who have the machinery to be able to do this. Necessary plant and operators are then used in times of heavy snowfall to supplement the Council's own snow clearing operations.

In order to ensure that this service is in place for winter 2023/2024, the costs paid by the Council to the snow clearing contractors to provide this service will need to increase in comparison to the rates paid for this service in previous years.

What outcomes is the policy/decision hoping to achieve

Describe what difference the decision will make on people, communities, localities.

It will ensure greater connectivity is maintained across the highway network, especially for our rural communities and inter urban connecting roads.

Executive Director responsible for policy/decision

Delete as applicable

Mark Ash (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy/decision

Delete as applicable

Cllr Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)

Is this a new policy/decision or a change to an existing one?

Delete as applicable

New decision

How will the impact of the policy/decision be monitored and evaluated?

Factors to consider include the systems set up to monitor any resulting Impact; timetable for action; how the findings will influence policy, practice and delivery; and how you intend to measure any proposed benefit(s) to health and wellbeing

This will be difficult and subjective. It will only apply during heavy snow conditions and the work these Contractors undertake is remote and not directly monitored.

And the second sec	Mar	N 1.
Will this policy/decision impact on:	Yes	No
Tick as appropriate		
Service Users	X	
Employees	X	
Wider community or groups of users	X	

If the policy decision impacts on employees, provide details below and include potential impacts on identified groups later in the form

It will ensure greater connectivity is maintained across the highway network, especially for our rural communities and inter urban connecting roads which will include for our Service Users and Members.

What strategic priorities will this policy/decision support?

Delete as applicable						
Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy / High quality of life and environment / Health, wellbeing and						
independence for all ages / Best start in life for children and families						
What geographical areas of Essex will the policy/decision affect?						
Tick as appropriate						
All Essex	Х	Epping Forest				
Basildon		Harlow				
Braintree		Maldon				
Brentwood		Rochford				
Castle Point		Tendring				
Chelmsford		Uttlesford				
Colchester						

Digital Accessibility

Accessibility regulations mean public sector organisations have a legal duty to make sure their websites and mobile applications meet accessibility requirements. Further guidance can be found in the council's

Digital Accessibility Policy

Is the new or revised policy / decision linked to a digital service (website, system or application)? *Delete as applicable*

Yes / No

(If yes) What steps have you taken to meet the accessibility requirements?

Outline the specific actions taken to meet the digital accessibility requirements – for further information visit <u>https://accessibility.campaign.gov.uk/</u>or contact <u>accessibility@essex.gov.uk</u>

(If yes) How have you tested accessibility?

Outline the actions taken to test accessibility.

(If yes) How will you monitor and maintain accessibility once it has gone live Outline how accessibility will be monitored and maintained

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment Equalities - Groups With Protected Characteristics For more information on protected characteristics https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protectedcharacteristics Nature of impact Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact. If you are unsure what the nature of the impact will be at this stage select 'Too early for impact to be known. You should also consider impacts on health and wellbeing as part of this, including socio-economic impacts (see ECIA guidance for more information). Characteristic **Too early** for impact Positive Negative None to be known Х Age Disability (including learning disability, mental health issues, Х physical impairment and sensory impairment) Gender reassignment Х Marriage / Civil Partnership Х Pregnancy / maternity Х Х Race Religion / belief Х Sex Х Х Sexual orientation Extent of impact Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g. - Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population? - Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives? - Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage? If 'no impact' identified above, select N/A for that characteristic. Characteristic **Too early** for impact Medium N/A High Low to be known Age Х Disability (including learning disability, mental health issues, Х physical impairment and sensory impairment)

Marriage / Civil Partnership Х Pregnancy / maternity Race Х Х Religion / belief Х Sex Х Sexual orientation Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. This should include how you assessed impacts on factors that influence people's health and wellbeing, particularly socio-economic factors (see ECIA guidance for more

Gender reassignment

information). What data / insight was used to assess identified impacts? What does the evidence tell you about the people that the policy / decision is aimed at? If selecting 'Too early for impact to be known' explain how impacts will be understood at a later point.

It will ensure greater connectivity is maintained across the highway network, especially for our rural communities and inter urban connecting roads during inclement weather (snow clearing) events.

Х

Х

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy /decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?

For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

Levelling Up - Priori	ty Areas a	& Coho	rts			
For more information on Levelling Up Plans and strat	egies <u>clicl</u>	<u>k here</u> .				
Nature of impact Select whether the policy / decision will have a positiv impact. If you are unsure what the nature of the impact to be known' You should also consider impacts on he economic impacts (see ECIA guidance for more inform	act will be alth and v	at this	stage	select ' T	oo early fo	or impact
Cohort / Area		sitive	Ne	gative	None	Too early for impact to be known
Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities o	r	х				
mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)	^				
Children on Free School Meals		Х				
Working families		Х				
Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education	, _	х		Τ	_	
training or employment for around 6-12 months)			\square			
Harlow		Х	<u> </u>			
Jaywick and Clacton		Х				
Harwich		Х				
Basildon (Town) housing estates		Х				
Canvey Island		Х				
Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates		Х				
Rural North of the Braintree District Extent of impact		Х				
Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / de - Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of - Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or r - Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small community at a severe disadvantage? If no impact identified above, select N/A.	f the pop nore impo	ulation : ortant a	spect	ts of their	· lives?	
Cohort / Area	High	Medi	um	Low	N/A	Too early for impact to be known
Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)	x					
Children on Free School Meals	Х					
Working families	Х					
Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)	х					
Harlow	Х					
Jaywick and Clacton	Х					
Harwich	Х					
Basildon (Town) housing estates	Х					
				·		
Canvey Island	X					_

Х

Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Rural North of the Braintree District X

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. This should include how you assessed impacts on factors that influence people's health and wellbeing, particularly socio-economic factors (see ECIA guidance for more information). What data / insight was used to assess identified impacts? What does the evidence tell you about the people that the policy / decision is aimed at? If selecting '**Too early for impact to be known'** explain how impacts will be understood at a later point.

It will ensure greater connectivity is maintained across the highway network, especially for our rural communities and inter urban connecting roads during inclement weather (snow clearing) events.

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales

If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy /decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?

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How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

Equalities - Inclusion Health Groups and Other Priority Groups

For more information on health inequalities and health inclusion groups see ECIA guidance and <u>NHS England » Inclusion</u> <u>health groups</u>

Nature of impact

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact. If you are unsure what the nature of the impact will be at this stage select '**Too early for impact to be known'**. You should consider impacts on health and wellbeing as part of this, including socio-economic impacts (see ECIA guidance for more information).

Group	Positive	Negative	None	Too early for impact to be known
Refugees / asylum seekers	Х			
Homeless / rough sleepers	Х			
People who experience drug and alcohol dependence	Х			
Offenders / ex-offenders	Х			
Victims of modern slavery	Х			
Carers	Х			
Looked after children / care leavers	Х			
The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)	Х			
People who are unemployed / economically inactive	Х			
People on low income	Х			
Sex workers	Х			
Ethnic minorities	Х			
Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities	Х			
People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities	Х			

Extent of impact

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?

- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?

- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If no impact identified above, select N/A.

Group	High	Medium	Low	N/A	Too early for impact to be known
Refugees / asylum seekers	Х				
Homeless / rough sleepers	Х				
People who experience drug and alcohol dependence	Х				
Offenders / ex-offenders	Х				
Victims of modern slavery	Х				
Looked after children / care leavers	Х				
The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)	x				
People who are unemployed / economically inactive	Х				
People on low income	Х				
Sex workers	Х				
Ethnic minorities	Х				
Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities	Х				

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities	Х					
Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact						

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. This should include how you assessed impacts on factors that influence people's health and wellbeing, particularly socio-economic factors (see ECIA guidance for more information). What data / insight was used to assess identified impacts? What does the evidence tell you about the people that the policy / decision is aimed at? If selecting '**Too early for impact to be known**' explain how impacts will be understood at a later point.

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What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?

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How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)? Continue the service provided.

Equalities - Geographical Groups

Deprivation: The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England and is part of a suite of outputs that form the Indices of Deprivation (IoD). It follows an established methodological framework in broadly defining deprivation to encompass a wide range of an individual's living conditions. People may be considered to be living in poverty if they lack the financial resources to meet their needs, whereas people can be regarded as deprived if they lack any kind of resources, not just income. Across Essex an estimated 123,640 residents live in the most deprived quintile (20%) nationally, equivalent to 8.6% of the total population. Health outcomes among residents of the most deprived areas are significantly worse than in the least deprived areas and there is, on average, a 12-year gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas <u>of the</u>

county https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/2w89n/indices-of-multiple-deprivation-imd-2019-full-report.

Rural/Urban: The Rural-Urban definition (DEFRA) introduced in 2004, defines urban areas as settlements of over 10,000 people. Other settlements are defined as one of three rural types: town and fringe, village or hamlet, and dispersed. <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-rural-urban-definition</u>

Coastal: ONS provides the following definition: Seaside towns are those with a tourist beach and associated visitor attractions while the other coastal towns include those focused on other activities such as being a port town or industrial town. For further information

https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/tourismindustry/datasets/coastaltownsinenglandandwales https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/e1kmd/essex-economic-commission-dealing-with-challenges-of-coastalcommunities-in-greater-essex

Nature of impact

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact. If you are unsure what the nature of the impact will be at this stage select '**Impacts not yet known'**. You should also consider impacts on health and wellbeing as part of this, including socio-economic impacts (see ECIA guidance for more information).

Group	Positive	Negative	None	Too early for impact to be known
People living in areas of high deprivation	Х			
People living in rural or isolated areas	Х			
People living in coastal areas	Х			
People living in urban or over-populated areas	Х			

Extent of impact

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?

- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives? - Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage? If not impact identified above, select N/A.

Group	High	Medium	Low	N/A	Too early for impact to be known
People living in areas of high deprivation	Х				
People living in rural or isolated areas	Х				
People living in coastal areas	Х				
People living in urban or over-populated areas	Х				

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. This should include how you assessed impacts on factors that influence people's health and wellbeing, particularly socio-economic factors (see ECIA guidance for more information). What data / insight was used to assess identified impacts? What does the evidence tell you about the people that the policy / decision is aimed at? If selecting 'Too early for impact to be known' explain how impacts will be understood at a later point.

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What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?

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How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

Families

Nature of impact

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact. If you are unsure what the nature of the impact will be at this stage select '**Too early for impact to be known'.** You should also consider impacts on health and wellbeing as part of this, including socio-economic impacts (see ECIA guidance for more information).

Group Too early for impact Positive Negative None to be known Family formation (e.g. becoming or living as a couple, the ability Х to live with or apart from children) Families going through key transitions (e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, Х redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition) Family members' ability to play a full role in family life (e.g. Х fulfilling parenting and other caring responsibilities) Families before, during and after couple separation Х Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and Х breakdown

Extent of impact

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?

- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?

- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If no impact identified above, select N/A.

Group	High	Medium	Low	N/A	Too early for impact to be known
Family formation (e.g. becoming or living as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)			х		
Families going through key transitions (e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition)			х		
Family members' ability to play a full role in family life (e.g. fulfilling parenting and other caring responsibilities)				х	
Families before, during and after couple separation				Х	
Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown			Х		

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. This should include how you assessed impacts on factors that influence family health and wellbeing, including socio-economic factors (see ECIA guidance for more information). What data / insight was used to assess identified impacts? What does the evidence tell you about the people that the policy / decision is aimed at? If selecting 'Too early for impact to be known' explain how impacts will be understood at a later point.

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What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?

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How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?

Climate
For more information on Energy, Climate and the Environment visit
https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/energy-climate-environment
SECTION 1: Does your decision/policy involve development or re-development of buildings or
infrastructure?
Delete as applicable
Yes / No
(If yes) Have you calculated the predicted operational energy demand and the carbon emissions (both
operational and embodied) impact of the development/infrastructure/building? Delete as applicable
Yes / No
 > (If yes) Please provide details
> (If no) Please carry out an evaluation of energy and carbon and revise your proposal in light of
the questions below
(If yes) Does your proposal align with the Net Zero Carbon (in operation) definition being promoted
through best practice and emerging planning responses at ECC? The definition of this can be found in
the <u>ECIA guidance</u> .
(If yes) Please provide details. This would include:
 calculations of predicted operational energy demand and consumption
 carbon dioxide emissions based on the final design and specification of the development
 calculation of annual renewable energy generation
 outline measures to be taken that will minimise energy demand and mitigate against any
residual carbon impact
Steps to increase energy efficiency
Renewable energy sources for heating
> (If no) Please revise specification of your proposal and refer to the Essex Design Guide for
advice on how to design buildings and developments to be net zero carbon in operation
(If yes) Have you assessed the upfront embodied carbon emissions (building life cycle stages A1-A5) of
your proposed project and have you set targets in line with best practice to reduce embodied carbon
emissions? For example this could include setting targets as per the LETI Climate Emergency Design
Guide, or setting targets to align with the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge.
(If yes) please provide details. This would include:
calculation of embodied carbon emissions using a RICS recognised tool e.g. <u>e.g. one click</u>
tool
 measures taken to reduce embodied carbon emissions.
(If no) please revise your specification of your proposal to include an assessment of embodied
carbon and measures to reduce the carbon impact
(If yes) Your development needs to be resilient to projected climate risks including flooding, overheating
and subsidence. Please outline how you will achieve this?
You need to consider:
Risks from coastal erosion
 Risks from flooding and steps to counter these e.g. green infrastructure and sustainable drainage
 Steps to counter water scarcity such as water efficient taps, toilets and appliances & water butts
 Steps to counter overheating such as build orientation, window shading, green walls and roofs
Please provide details below:
No development required. This service is rarely used and employs local farmers operating from their
existing premises to assist our in house Essex Highways gritting teams with clearing roads of fallen
ensuing premises to assist our in nouse essen ingitways gritting teams with creating roads of fallen

and/or drifting snow.

<u>SECTION 2:</u> Does your decision/policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?

Delete as applicable

Yes / No

(If yes) The use of existing buildings will always have a climate impact because it requires energy consumption. Please outline how you will mitigate against this impact – you may wish to consider the following points:

- What is the current EPC rating of the building you're using?
- Can you measure current energy usage in a bid to manage the energy efficiency of a building such as heating times/turning off lights
- Can you improve the energy efficiency of the building? This may include insulation such as cavity wall, loft or external wall, upgrades to heating systems (e.g. heat pumps and/or heating controls), LED bulbs or introducing renewable generation e.g. solar panels
- Can you use water efficiency measures such as low-pressure taps and water butts?
- Do you know how your energy is supplied? Do you know who your energy supplier is? Is it a green or renewable source? Consider on-site renewable sources where applicable

<u>SECTION 3:</u> Does your decision/policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs/requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit) *Delete as applicable*

Yes / No

(If yes) Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?

Consider using local staff to reduce travel needs. Are you enabling staff to use public transport or active travel options (cycling or walking)? Where car journeys are essential, can staff or service users be incentivised to car share?

(If car travel is unavoidable) Are you specifying electric cars and vehicles? If not, what is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?

SECTION 4: Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?

Yes / No

(If yes) Please confirm for purchases over £100k that you have an energy management plan as part of your procurement

Yes / No / Not applicable

(If yes) Please list which climate TOMS (Themes, outcomes & measures) you have included in your procurement and the weighting these have been given

Does your decision/policy involve procurement of goods or materials?

Yes / No

(If yes) Do you know what products or materials you will be using and where these come from? Materials and products all have different greenhouse gas impacts it is therefore important we consider the environmental performance when taking decisions.

	Yes	No	N/A
Have you considered making use of goods/materials that already			
exist in the organisation, or using second-hand equipment?			
Will you purchase goods that are durable and long lasting, and			
can be easily maintained or repaired?			
Will you source goods/materials from a local provider where			

	SSCSSMent				
possible?					
Will you use goods or materials made with recycled content					
, .					
and/or recyclable at the end of their life?	ludee weete f	 			
SECTION 5: Will any waste be generated by this decision? This inc					
generated by service users/staff, and waste generated by replacing a service users/staff, and waste generated by replacing a service of the s	ng existing pr	oducts/mate	rials with		
new.					
Yes/ no (If we) Mart of our othicities will concrete worth on it is immediate	***				
(If yes) Most of our activities will generate waste so it is importar		-			
properly. Generally, the more waste produced the greater the gre	-	•			
approaches are in place to maximise reuse, recycling and compos	ting of any w	aste generate	ed by this		
decision? Please specify how you are:		noduce for su			
 Measuring the amount of waste being generated and setting setting requirements 	ng targets to	reduce, for ex	ample		
setting reuse requirements					
 Requiring recycling – such as setting targets for waste recy 	•	-	to recycle		
Operating the service in a digital way to reduce use of mat		25			
Sharing goods and services with others to reduce resource					
 Donating or selling materials and products that are no long elsewhere 	ger required t	o keep them i	n use		
• Avoiding over-packaged or difficult to recycle goods.					
 Avoid single-use items, in particular single use plastic 					
• Recycling and composting waste where applicable.					
Where will waste be treated and disposed of? This includes gene	ral rubbish an	nd recycling.			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Nature of impact					
Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative	impact, or if	there is no exp	pected		
impact					
Group	Positive	Negative	None		
Built Environment / Energy			Х		
Sustainable Transport / Travel	Х				

Other Extent of impact

Waste

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?

- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?

- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If no impact identified above, select N/A.

Group	High	Medium	Low	N/A
Built Environment / Energy				Х
Sustainable Transport / Travel	Х			
Waste				Х
Other				Х

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you?

Х

Х

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(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales

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What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?

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Sign Off				
ECIA Author				
Name	Robbie Jamieson			
Job Title	Winter Service Manager			
Team	Maintenance and Operations, Essex Highways.			
Function Delete as applicable	Adult Social Care / Chief Executive's Office / Children, Families & Education / Climate, Environment & Customer Services / Corporate Services / Economy, Investment & Public Health /People and Transformation /			
ECIA Approver The ECIA approver needs to be a different person to the CIA author, ideally someone in a more senior position				
Name				
Job Title				
Team				
Function	Adult Social Care / Chief Executive's Office / Children, Families & Education /			
Delete as applicable	Climate, Environment & Customer Services Corporate Services / Economy, Investment & Public Health /People and Transformation /			