

6 October 2017

Winter Maintenance Policy

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director Transformation and Partnerships and Ian Thompson, Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of an update presentation on the Winter Maintenance Policy.

Background

- 2 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and agreed its work programme at its meeting on 14 July 2017. Included within its work programme was a progress report on the Council's Winter Maintenance Policy.
- 3 In 2009/10 the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out an in depth review of the Council's Winter Maintenance Policy and have continued to receive information setting out how the Council has managed its winter maintenance programme looking back at the previous year and looking forward to the winter ahead.
- 4 Arrangements have been made for Brian Buckley, Strategic Highways Manager and Brian Kitching, Highway Asset Manager to attend the meeting on the 6 October 2017 to provide an update for members on the resources used during winter 2016/17 and those available and in place prior to the start of the winter period 2017/18. The presentation will focus on the following:
 - Update on winter 2016/17
 - Winter Maintenance Policy – background.
 - Treatment routes - Detail – Carriageways Priority 1, Carriageways Priority 2, Snow Routes, footways and cycle ways
 - Salt and grit bins – how provided.
 - Key facts and figures for 2017/18 including total budget, total salt stocks, number and type of winter equipment available for use (gritters, trailers and snow blowers etc.), salt bins – number of, average salt cost etc.
 - How DCC works In Partnership, detail of key partners for 2017/18.
 - Key contacts for members/public in relation to winter maintenance.

Objectives of winter maintenance

- 5 The Winter Maintenance Policy is essential to keep the highway network open for the safe and convenient movement of people and goods. The objectives of winter maintenance are as follows:
- Customer - Meeting user needs and expectations through an efficient, effective and proportionate service.
 - Safety - Complying with statutory obligations, meeting user's needs for safety.
 - Serviceability – Ensuring availability, maintaining reliability.
 - Sustainability – Minimising whole life costs, maximising value to the community and minimising environmental impact.

Winter Maintenance Policy

- 6 Durham County Council's Winter Maintenance Policy covers the following:
- **Treatment routes** – it is not practical to treat all parts of the adopted highway. Therefore, in accordance with the Code the Council has criteria for prioritising certain carriageways, footways and cycle ways within the County.
 - **Provision of salt and grit bins** – The Council undertakes precautionary salting on only a proportion of the adopted highway network and many minor roads are not treated. In these areas the Council will provide salt and grit bins for the public to use themselves based on objective criteria.
 - **Provision of salt and grit heaps** - Salt and grit heaps are provided in rural locations on steep banks and bends for the public to use themselves on a case by case basis.
 - **Deployment and response times** – Criteria and response times for precautionary salting, post treatment and clearance of ice and snow (priority 1 routes and minimum winter network), post treatment and clearance of ice and snow (priority 2 routes) and snow routes.
 - **Resilience** – Following recent severe winters the Council has improved resilience by increasing salt stocks at the start of the winter maintenance season.
 - **Customer Services** – Detail of contact numbers and reporting process.

Next Steps

- 7 It is intended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive an update informing members of the delivery of winter maintenance during 2016/17 together with detail of winter maintenance plans for 2017/18 at the October 2017 meeting.

Recommendations

- 8 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon the information provided in the report and presentation.

Background Papers

Review of the Winter Maintenance Service/Strategy – Scrutiny Review Report-
September, 2009.

Review of the Winter Maintenance Service /Strategy – Scrutiny Review Report -
May, 2010.

Winter Maintenance Policy 2017.

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Report – Winter
Maintenance Policy – 10 November 2014

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – NA

Staffing – NA

Risk – NA

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – NA

Accommodation – NA

Crime and Disorder – NA

Human Rights – NA

Consultation – NA

Procurement – NA

Disability Issues – NA

Legal Implications – NA