

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

<b>TO:</b>	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
<b>DATE:</b>	4 NOVEMBER 2014	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	13
<b>TITLE:</b>	WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2014-2015		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
<b>SERVICE:</b>	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	<b>WARDS:</b>	BOROUGHWIDE
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	SAM SHEAN	<b>TEL:</b>	0118 937 2138/72138
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	ASSISTANT HIGHWAYS MANAGER	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	sam.shean@reading.gov.uk

#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of the outputs delivered by the 2013/2014 Winter Service Plan during the 2013/2014 winter period.
- 1.2 To inform the Sub-Committee of the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan to be put in place to manage the 2014/2015 winter period.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the outputs delivered by the 2013/2014 Winter Service Plan and procedures put in place.
- 2.2 That the Sub-Committee note and endorse the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 To provide a service to reduce, as far as possible, the effects of adverse weather on the public highway during the winter period.
- 3.2 To provide conditions as safe as reasonably practical having regards to financial constraints and our statutory duties.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 This report outlines the review of the 2013/2014 Winter Service Plan and the changes incorporated within the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan, which the Council produce and agree on an annual basis through the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

#### **5. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 2013/2014 WINTER SERVICE PLAN**

- 5.1 The 2013/2014 winter proved to be a wet and relatively mild winter season. Although there were no prolonged severe weather events, there were several occasions resulting in marginal temperatures triggering treatment of the primary network.
- 5.2 The 2013/2014 Winter Service Plan provided a robust service for the duration of the winter period with no disruption to the primary and secondary network.
- 5.3 There were no reported problems with the availability of salt or maintaining salt stock level during the 2013/14 winter season.

#### **6. REVIEW OF 2013/2014 WINTER SERVICE PLAN AND UPDATED 2014/2015 WINTER SERVICE PLAN**

- 6.1 A review of the 2013/2014 Winter Service Plan has been undertaken. The main points are summarised below:
- A review of the existing 48 grit bins was carried out confirming their on-going requirement.
  - An assessment of 5 grit bin requests received during the 2013/2014 winter season was carried out. Each location was assessed against the assessment criteria, however none achieved a score high enough to warrant a grit bin to be installed for the 2014/2015 winter service period.
  - The contractual salt stock held by the Council's contractor was increased from 600 tonnes to 1200 tonnes for the 2010/2011 winter service period. This will continue to be maintained for the 2014/2015 winter service period.
  - All bus routes continue to be on primary or secondary gritting routes. There are no reported changes to bus routes for the 2014/2015 winter service period, except for in the vicinity of Reading Station Redevelopment Scheme, where the primary gritting route and 2014/2015 Winter

Service Plan will be updated as required on completion of the work on site.

- All cross-boundary primary and secondary gritting routes correspond with neighbouring Authorities routes.
- Footway snow ploughs continue to be available for use in the Town Centre and on primary pedestrian routes such as the Reading and Caversham Bridges.

6.2 Highways has completed a full review of its 2013/2014 Winter Service Plan and produced the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan.

6.3 The updated 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan and map showing the primary/secondary routes and grit bin locations is available as a background paper, electronically and on deposit in the Members Room.

## **7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

7.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

## **8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

8.1 A Winter Service Plan is produced outlining the Council decision making process. This is subject to review annually taking into account comments from the public, media, Government and Councillors.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 in respect of snow and ice.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The cost of winter maintenance is met from the Transport Revenue Budget.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 Winter Service Plan 2014/2015.

11.2 Winter Gritting Routes 2014/2015.

11.3 Grit Bin Requests Evaluation Sheet for 2014/2015.

- 11.4 Grit Bin Evaluation Sheet of current approved grit bin locations.
- 11.5 Traffic Management Sub-Committee Report - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.