

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 NOVEMBER 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	16
TITLE:	WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2015/2016		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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JOB TITLE:	STREETCARE SERVICES MANAGER	E-MAIL:	sam.shean@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of the outputs delivered by the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan.
- 1.2 To inform the Sub-Committee of the 2015/2016 Winter Service Plan.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee note the outputs delivered by the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan.
- 2.2
- 2.3 That the Sub-Committee note and endorse the 2015/2016 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 that are 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 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan and the changes incorporated within the 2015/2016 Winter Service Plan, which the Council produce and agree on an annual basis through the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

5. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 2014/2015 WINTER SERVICE PLAN

- 5.1 The 2014/2015 winter proved to be a relatively mild, uneventful winter season with only one or two colder spells lasting a few consecutive days.
- 5.2 Although the 2014/2015 winter was relatively mild overall, under the Well Maintained Highways - Code of Practice (Appendix H), which requires precautionary salting from a temperature of 1°C and falling, there was a tendency for action rather than no action which resulted in a higher number of salting runs than what would have been expected.
- 5.2 The 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan provided a robust service for the duration of the winter period with minimal disruption to the primary and secondary network.
- 5.3 There were no reported problems with the availability of salt or maintaining salt stock levels during the 2014/2015 winter season.

6. REVIEW OF 2014/2015 WINTER SERVICE PLAN AND UPDATED 2015/2016 WINTER SERVICE PLAN

- 6.1 A review of the 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan has been undertaken. The main points are summarised below:

- A review of the existing 48 No. grit bins was carried out confirming their on-going requirement with the exception of the grit bin located outside the former Civic Centre, in the service Road adjacent to the loading bay. Due to the closure and relocation of the former Civic Centre this grit bin has been removed now leaving an ongoing requirement of 47 No. grit bins for the 2015/2016 winter season.
- 3 No. grit bin requests were received during the 2014/2015 winter season. One of these had been assessed previously, the other two were assessed against the criteria, however, none achieved a score high enough to warrant a grit bin to be installed for the 2015/2016 winter service period.

- The contractual salt stock held by the Council's contractor was increased from 600 tonnes to 1200 tonnes from the start of the 2010/2011 winter service period and this stock level will be maintained for the start of the 2015/2016 winter service period reducing to 600 tonnes by 31st March 2016.
- All bus routes have been reviewed and appropriate amendments included within the 2015/2016 Winter Service Plan. Bus routes continue to be on primary or secondary salting routes.
- All cross-boundary primary and secondary salting routes correspond with neighbouring Authorities routes including the access to the new Mere oak Park and Ride facility.
- When the Snow Plan is activated (during prolonged adverse weather events) 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 and the new pedestrian/cycle bridge.

6.2 Transport and Streetcare have completed a full review of its 2014/2015 Winter Service Plan and produced the 2015/2016 Winter Service Plan.

6.3 The updated 2015/2016 Winter Service Plan and map showing the primary/secondary routes and grit bin locations is available as a background paper.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

7.1 The Winter Service Plan 2015/2016 will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2015 - 2018 objective of 'Keeping the Town Clean, Safe, Green and Active'.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

8.1 A Winter Service Plan is produced and made available on the Reading Borough Council Website 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. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

10.2 The updated Winter Service Plan 2015/2016 includes minor amendments to salting routes to accommodate changes to the bus routes. There is no overall change to service delivery at this time. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The cost of winter maintenance is met from the Transport and Streetcare Revenue Budget.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Winter Service Plan 2015/2016.

12.2 Winter Salting Routes 2015/2016.

12.3 Grit Bin Requests Evaluation Sheet for 2015/2016.

12.4 Grit Bin Evaluation Sheet of current approved grit bin locations.

12.5 Traffic Management Sub-Committee Report - 4th November 2014.

12.6 Well Maintained Highways - Code of Practice (Appendix H).