

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 September 2015
Subject:	Winter Maintenance - Preparations for Winter 2015/2016

Summary:

This report details the background and preparations put in place for highway winter maintenance operations in Lincolnshire for the 2015/2016 winter season.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the report and to endorse the preparations for winter operations in 2015/16.

1. Background

Winter maintenance operations are carried out in accordance with the policies and procedures set out in the county's *Winter Maintenance Plan* the latest version of which is dated July 2013 and was approved by Members in September 2013. A copy is attached as Appendix A. Once the restructuring of Environment and Economy is completed there will be some minor rewrite of the *Winter Maintenance Plan* required to take account of the new structure.

Winter Maintenance Plan – Section 1 Procedures

The Winter Maintenance Plan is split in to three parts. *Section 1 – procedures*, includes policies and standards, is required to have Member Approval. *Section 2 – Winter Maintenance Contacts* and *Section 3 – Operational Information* are for internal staff use only.

Historical Context

Attached as Appendices B and C are charts detailing Salt Usage and Precautionary Salting Turnouts since 1985. This shows the uncertain nature of the winter weather over the last 30 winter seasons. Policy HM29 of the attached Winter Maintenance Plan details how the winter maintenance budget is currently set.

Priority Route Network.

In the past it was usual at this time of year for a report to be tabled for Members to consider a list of additional roads that could have been added to the Priority Route Network, which had been scored in accordance with Policy HM31. But as reported in previous years, the network is at capacity with the resources currently deployed.

However we are aware that road usage does change following new housing and industrial development. Therefore some minor changes to the network are possible by taking a gritted route off the network and replacing with a non-gritted route, however this must be with all Parish/Town Council's affected agreeing to the changes. No changes are planned for this winter season.

Salt Procurement

The normal bi-annual tender exercise for salt procurement was carried out in 2014 by ESPO and following technical and financial evaluation was awarded to the National Gritting Supplies (NGS) based in Southampton. This was the first change of supplier since Salinity UK won the contract in 1999. The county's reserve stock of 12,000 tonnes of salt was stored on the quayside at Southampton for the winter of 2014/15. However following concerns expressed by Members last season and subsequent discussions with NGS the reserve stock will now be stored at Immingham docks for the forthcoming winter. For the start of the winter season there is now 35,000 tonnes of salt in depots throughout the county.

Gritter Fleet

One new replacement 18 tonne gritter will be brought into the fleet this winter following expiry of its 10 year lease period.

Salt Barns.

Utilising some of the winter underspend budget from the winter of 2013/2014, work has started on the process to build a new salt barn at Willingham Hall. Once this has been completed this will only leave Horncastle with salt not stored under cover as recommended by national standards.

Resilience.

Local highways divisions are continuing to engage with Parish Councils to encourage engagement on self-help practices and processes.

2. Conclusion

- A. Continue winter maintenance operations in accordance with the Council's Winter Maintenance Plan issued July 2013.
- B. Continue engagement with parish Councils and Community Groups on self-help arrangements during periods of severe weather.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Winter Maintenance Plan - Dated July 2013
Appendix B	Winter Maintenance Salt Usage
Appendix C	Precautionary Salting Callouts (County Average)

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by David Davies, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or davidj.davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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