

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

Report to:	Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and I.T.
Date:	01 November 2016
Subject:	Update to the Winter Maintenance Plan
Decision Reference:	I012193
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

To amend the existing highways Winter Maintenance Plan issued July 2013 to take into account new national guidance and the results and recommendations from Highways and Transport committees Winter Maintenance Working Group's report.

Recommendation(s):

That the Winter Maintenance Plan dated October 2016 attached as Appendix B to this report is approved.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Not to update the Plan and continue to operate to the July 2013 version

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Winter Maintenance Plan is periodically updated so as to:

1. Develop robust standards
2. Implement changes in national standards and best practice where appropriate
3. Implement recommendations following the Highways and Transport Committees Winter Maintenance Working Group's report presented at the 12th September 2016 Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee.

1. Background

In April 2016 the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee approved the formation of a Winter Maintenance Working Group to highlight areas of future savings, with particular focus on the equipment for Severe Weather Events. The Group also looked to identify any changes to be considered for inclusion in an updated Winter Maintenance Plan.

The Working Group presented its outcomes and recommendations to the Committee on 12 September 2016. A copy of the Report is attached at Appendix A to this Report.

The opportunity has also been taken to include as a preamble to the Winter Maintenance Plan guidance on the legal framework and background to these operations in a national context contained within the new "Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice" to be published later this month by the Department of Transport.

The revised Winter Maintenance Plan is attached at Appendix B. Appendix C sets out the key changes that have been made.

2. Conclusion

It is recommended that the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and I.T. approves the Highway Winter Maintenance Plan Issued October 2016 for operations for this forthcoming and subsequent winter maintenance seasons.

3. Legal Comments:

The Council's legal duties are set out in the Preamble to the Policy at Appendix B.

The recommendation is within the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor if it is within the budget.

4. Resource Comments:

The activities set out in the Winter Maintenance Plan as recommended, can be met from the currently approved budget. The Council also has an earmarked reserve available to draw upon, should the activity required in cases of adverse weather exceed the approved budget.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The report will be considered by the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 October 2016. Any comments from the Committee will be presented to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and I.T.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Report to Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee 12 September 2016 - Winter Maintenance Working Group 2016 Outcome & Recommendations. Online: Winter Maintenance Working Group 2016 Outcome and Recommendations
Appendix B	Winter Maintenance Plan – October 2016
Appendix C	Paper highlighting the key changes between the July 2013 and October 2016 Winter Maintenance Plans.

7. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Report to Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee 12 September 2016	Attached as Appendix A to this report
Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice	Draft version available to Highway Authorities. Final version to be published by Department for Transport on the 28th October 2016.

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