

**Open Report on behalf of Paul Coathup,
Assistant Director for Highways & Transportation**

Report to:	Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 September 2012
Subject:	Winter Maintenance & Mutual Aid - Preparations for Winter 2012/2013

Summary:

The Winter Maintenance Plan sets out the Council's winter maintenance policies, legal duties and standards. Following changes, the policy is now in need of approval in readiness for the winter of 2012/13 due to the need to:

- 1) Develop robust standards
- 2) Take account of lessons learnt and pressures from previous winters
- 3) Comply with necessary legal changes

A revised Winter Maintenance Plan has been developed and is attached for consideration.

Actions Required:

Members of the Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee are requested to recommend approval of the Winter Maintenance Plan 2012/13 to the Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport.

1. Background

Winter Maintenance Plan – Section 1 Procedures

The Winter Maintenance Plan is split into 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.

The county's Winter Maintenance Plan was last amended and approved in September 2010. Since that date three changes were implemented for operational reasons during the winter of 2011/12 and approved by the Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport.

These were:

- Secondary Routes were renamed Severe Weather Routes in accordance with national best practice.
- Following the two severe winter of 2009/10, 2010/11 salt stock holdings were increased from 23,000 tonnes to 35,000 tonnes.
- Following national reviews, including the Quarmby Review, into winter operations during the two recent severe winters guidance on gritting spread rates were issued. These were taken into account and new Precautionary Salting and Snow Clearing Flow Charts were issued to staff.

The Winter Maintenance Plan for 2012/13 now builds on further work undertaken following the recent severe winters and now includes three new procedure sections of guidance for staff and the public:

17. Public Self Help Guidance Literature

18. Use of Rebated Diesel (Red Diesel)

19. Mutual Aid and Self Help arrangements with Parish and District Councils

Both the Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee and Communities Scrutiny Committee have had an input into this work over the last year.

Winter Maintenance 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.

2. Conclusion

The Highways, Transport and Technology Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the Winter Maintenance Plan 2012/13 and recommend approval to the Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport.

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 2012/13

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 553080 or davidj.davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk.