

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND IT

15 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2021/22

COMMENTS FROM THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

On 13 September 2021, the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the Winter Service Plan 2021/22, and unanimously supported the Recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT.

The following points were highlighted:

- The Committee was given assurance that sufficient amounts of salt and grit were available across the County in preparation for challenging weather conditions this winter.
- Members were given assurance that there was an ongoing recruitment process for 30 (thirty) HGV drivers -through Balfour Beatty- for the existing fleet of 43 (forty-three) gritters across the county, hence a shortage of drivers was not expected. Moreover, as explained within the Winter Service Plan, contingency plans included the use of third-party contractors and farmers to help during periods of intense snow. In addition, a plan to introduce a strategic network of HGV drivers allowed for further challenges to be mitigated where these emerged.
- Assurance was given that County Councillors were being notified where a grit bin was being removed from an area they represented. It was also clarified that grit bins were not to be removed unless an area was already being gritted.
- An issue was raised regarding mutual aid, in terms of Town and Parish Councils being provided with bags of salt to deal with severe weather conditions (i.e., use of salt in footpaths within their areas, and in established problematic spots that were hard to reach); this did not happen last year due to the pandemic, however, this year some Town and Parish Councils missed the opportunity to apply for that support, which was advertised in Town and Parish news in May 2021, with a closing date for applications for bags of salt being the end of June 2021. Direct communication with Town and Parish Councils was requested in offering this support and in establishing who was responsible for receiving this. Darrell Redford, Network Resilience Manager for LCC, was currently communicating with Town and Parish Councils to offer this support. Assurance was given that all requests were being accommodated and will continue to be accepted; going forward direct communication was agreed to be implemented ensuring that Town and Parish Councils received the assistance required.