
To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 7 NOVEMBER 2018

Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Heading: WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN 2018/19

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report details the winter maintenance preparation and arrangements for the 2018/2019 winter period for ensuring Renfrewshire's road network, footpaths and schools are accessible during the winter, to support the economy and connecting people with jobs, learning and social needs.
 - 1.2 The Winter Maintenance Plan sets out the preventative and reactive activities that happen 24/7 over the winter period to keep Renfrewshire road and footpaths network safe and accessible.
 - 1.3 As part of this year's Winter Maintenance Plan, a review of the Council's Winter Maintenance Activities has been carried out, including updated community grit bin arrangements and school access arrangements.
 - 1.4 The Winter Maintenance Plan for 2018/2019 has been prepared, taking into account the experience gained from the conditions of last winter and recent developments in winter service best practice to ensure coordination and consistency of the response provided by Environment & Infrastructure services.
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board approves the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2018/2019, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Background

3.1 Renfrewshire Council has a statutory obligation under section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to take such steps as it considers reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads. This applies to adopted carriageways, footways, footpaths and pedestrian precincts for which the Council is responsible. The winter period will be from the beginning of October 2018 to the end of April 2019.

3.2 The Winter Maintenance Plan sets out the Council's duties and responsibilities with regards to our response to periods of adverse weather in Renfrewshire. The objective of the plan is to:

- Allow the safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians
- Minimise delays caused by winter weather
- Ensure that all road operations are carried out safely

4 Winter Maintenance Plan

4.1 The Priorities Attached to Roads and Footways

In order to make best use of available resources it is necessary to operate a priority system for the treatment of carriageways and footways.

4.2 These routes have been established over many years and have proved effective at keeping Renfrewshire's roads network safe for vehicles and pedestrians.

4.3 Priority 1 routes are the strategic road network routes that are given priority for treatment. There are 6 priority 1 routes, totalling more than 54% of Renfrewshire's road network. These roads include important bus routes, hospitals, key business and commuter links and Renfrewshire's key arterial roads.

4.4 Staff Deployment and Co-ordination Procedures

In 2017/2018, for the first time, the winter maintenance service operated 24 hours per day. This approach proved invaluable to enable the winter maintenance plan to deliver on its objectives to keep the road network operational.

4.5 The Winter Maintenance Plan includes arrangements for managing severe events i.e. those outwith standard winter response arrangements, with the Council's Civil Contingencies Service assisting with the coordination of the response. Key stakeholders in cases of severe winter events will consist of representatives from each Council Service, supported by officers from the Civil Contingencies Service and the

Council's Communications Team. They will provide tactical and strategic direction to the Council's response, allowing a more effective deployment and coordination of Council staff and resources. It is difficult to fully prescribe a severe weather event but typically this could be a heavy snow fall, prolonged periods of very low temperatures or any event which brings disruption to roads and footways for more than a day.

4.6 Salt Supplies

Salt resilience levels are maintained throughout the winter period in line with resilience arrangements. The Underwood Road depot has a capacity for storage of 4000 tonnes of salt at any one time. Salt will be replenished on an ongoing basis.

4.7 Communications

The refreshed Winter Maintenance Plan contains improved arrangements for internal and external communications. A key element involves increasing public awareness of what can be expected from our Winter Service. Social media is the key communication channel used by the Council and this will be supported by wider communications where required.

4.8 Grit Bins

Grit bins within communities play an important role supporting the delivery of the Winter Maintenance Plan. Currently there are 540 grit bins in place across Renfrewshire for communities to utilise. During the winter of 2017/2018 over 140 new grit bin locations were created throughout Renfrewshire. In addition to the 540 grit bin locations a further 20 new community grit bins are going to be located throughout Renfrewshire for this coming winter. The locations of these community grit bins is detailed at Appendix 3 of the Winter Maintenance Plan.

4.9 Learning from the severe weather of winter 2017/2018 some of our more rural communities were cut off and as a result the service plans to locate community grit bins in each of these more rural locations. The service will prioritise the replenishment of the 20 community grit bins to ensure there is grit for communities to access. We will endeavour to keep all grit bins filled throughout the winter, available for residents to support their streets and communities.

4.10 The grit bin assessment criteria has been included at Appendix 3 of the Winter Maintenance Plan to provide transparency to the approach taken to deciding upon a new grit bin location. The review of all the 540 grit bin locations has identified around 90 grit bins that do not meet the criteria. Many of these grit bins have been adopted by the Council from housing developers over the years. These grit bins will be moved over time to new locations within an area deemed to meet the assessment criteria. Ward Members will be advised of any grit bins that will be relocated within their ward.

4.11 City Region Winter Maintenance Planning

The Council continues to work with all of the Councils in the Glasgow City Region including shared weather forecasting arrangements, winter treatment, support at boundaries, equipment and external contractors.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Met from within existing resources

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None

3. **Community / Council Planning**

Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy – The Winter Maintenance Plan aims to ensure that pedestrians and motorists in Renfrewshire are protected during periods of adverse weather minimising disruption and ensuring all road operations are carried out safely.

4. **Legal** – None.

5. **Property/Assets** – None

6. **Information Technology** – None.

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website

8. **Health & Safety** – None.

9. **Procurement** – None.

10. **Risk** – None.

11. **Privacy Impact** – None.

12. **CoSLA Policy Position** - none

List of Background Papers: None

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