

To: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

On: 4 NOVEMBER 2020

Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Heading: WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN 2020/21

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report details the winter maintenance preparation and arrangements for the 2020/21 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 over the winter period to keep Renfrewshire's road and footpath 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 the reciprocal arrangements that exist between Renfrewshire Council and our neighbouring authorities.
 - 1.4 Recognising the potential impacts Covid-19 may have on our workforce and the potential for impacts on our resilience, a mutual aid protocol has been agreed between the 9 Glasgow City Region authorities. The mutual aid arrangement recognises the importance of collaborative working and ensures that arrangements are in place for authorities to support each other during any periods whereby operational activities may be impacted.
 - 1.5 The Winter Maintenance Plan for 2020/21 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.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board approves the Winter Maintenance Plan for 2020/21, 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 2020 to the end of April 2021.
- 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

Carriageway Gritting Routes

- 4.1 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 Priority 2 routes tend to be 'B Class' roads and main distributor routes including access to other facilities such as schools, priority 3 routes are local distributor roads serving areas such as industrial estates with priority 4 routes being local access roads within communities.

Footway Gritting

- 4.5 The priority areas for footway gritting are Paisley, Johnstone and Renfrew Town Centre Pedestrian areas based on the footfall in these localities, thereafter areas such as those serving shopping areas, health centres, schools and the hospital.

Schools

- 4.6 Facilities Management staff within schools are responsible for gritting and clearing snow from the entrance door of the school to an entrance point within the school grounds. During periods of snow and ice approximately 100metres either side of the main entrance will be treated

Staff Deployment and Co-ordination Procedures

- 4.7 The Winter Maintenance Service operates on a 24hr basis from 1 October to 30 April, providing the capacity and resilience required to ensure the priority road network can be treated during periods of adverse weather.
- 4.8 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.

Salt Supplies

- 4.9 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, with daily usage levels being recorded throughout the winter period.

Communications

- 4.10 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. This follows on from the successful naming the gritter campaign which engaged the public in the importance of this period. Social media is the key communication channel used by the Council and this will be supported by wider communications where required.

Grit Bins

- 4.11 Grit bins within communities play an important role supporting the delivery of the Winter Maintenance Plan. Currently there are approximately 540 grit bins in place across Renfrewshire for communities to utilise.
- 4.12 In addition to the 540 grit bin locations, 20 community grit bins located in each of our communities to ensure there is provision across Renfrewshire for access to supply throughout the winter period.

- 4.13 Replenishment of grit bins is a labour intensive process and whilst we will endeavour to respond to these requests as soon as possible our standard timescale for responding to filling grit bins is 7 days.
 - 4.14 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.
 - 4.15 The grit bin assessment criteria is included at Appendix 3 of the Winter Maintenance Plan to provide transparency to the approach taken to deciding upon a new grit bin location.
-

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

13. **Climate Risk** – none

List of Background Papers: None

Author: Gavin Hutton, Head of Operations & Infrastructure
e-mail: gavin.hutton@renfrewshire.gov.uk