
**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Neighbourhoods and Housing**

19 October 2010

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

WINTER MAINTENANCE SERVICE 2010/11

Summary

1. This report informs the Executive Member of the proposed Winter Maintenance policy for the next winter maintenance period, from November 2010, and seeks approval to the policy as set out in the Winter Maintenance Manual 2010/11 (Appendix 1).

Background

2. It is a statutory duty for highway authorities to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the highway is safe for users during periods of frost, ice and snow.

The Council, as part of its highways maintenance policy, invests around half a million pounds each year treating a defined road, footway and cycle route network to prevent the formation of frost and ice on the roads, footways and off road cycle routes, and to clear snow as necessary. The approved policy was set out in 1998 and describes the extent of the defined road network and a limited footway priority network.

Following the prolonged period of severe winter weather during December and January last winter, a review of the winter maintenance service was carried out and the following changes to the policy were approved by the Executive on 20 July:

- An increase in the precautionary gritting network
- An increase in the precautionary gritting of footways.
- Establishment of a list of secondary routes in times of extreme weather
- 24/7 coverage by the York Contact Centre (YCC) during prolonged spells of bad weather and other emergency events
- Formation of a Winter Maintenance Group (WMG) to take control of resources and communications during prolonged periods of bad weather.
- Improvement in the information available on the CYC web site

- Establishment of priority cycle routes

The operational procedures for the winter service have been amended to incorporate the changes, and these are set out in the Winter Maintenance Manual 2010/11.

Consultation

3. As part of the review, consultation was undertaken through a special Talkabout survey and officers' attendance at Ward Committee meetings.

Corporate Objectives

4. Through the proposed measures Communities and Neighbourhoods supports delivery of the Thriving City, Sustainable City, Safer City, Inclusive City and Effective Organisation themes from the corporate strategy.

Implications

5. Financial

There are no financial implications from the proposals in this report for a normal winter. The available budgets will cover the amendments to the service during a normal winter. If the service experiences a severe winter and secondary action is required this will result in financial pressures.

6. Human Resources (HR)

There are no HR implications

7. Equalities

This has been taken into account in the EIA for the service delivery.

8. Legal

Under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 (modified on 31st October 2003, by Section 111 of the Railways and Transport Act 2003.) The council as *"the highway authority for a highway maintainable at the public expense are under a duty ... to maintain the highway. And In particular, a highway authority are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice."*

Section 150 of the Highways Act 1980 imposes a duty upon authorities to remove any obstruction of the highway resulting from "accumulation of snow or from the falling down of banks on the side of the highway, or from any other cause".

The Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a network management duty on all local traffic authorities in England. It requires authorities to do all that is

reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving.

9. Crime and Disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications

10. Information Technology (IT)

There are no IT implications

11. Property

There are no property implications

12. Other

There are no other implications

Risk Management

- 13 In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, the main risks that have been identified in this report are:

- Strategic Risks,
- Physical Risks,
- Financial Risks,
- People Risks,

Measured in terms of impact and likelihood the risk score for all of the above has been assessed at less than 16. This means that at this point the risks need only to be monitored, as they do not provide a real threat to the achievement of the objectives of this report.

Recommendations

- 14.. The Executive Member is asked to approve the Winter Maintenance policy as detailed in the Winter Maintenance Manual 2010/11

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Report Approved *tick* **Date** *Insert Date*

Sally Burns
Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Report Approved *tick* **Date** 6.10.10

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

'Review of Winter Maintenance Policy', Executive report – July 2010

Highway Maintenance Services – Winter Maintenance Manual – 2010/11