

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

## **Review of Winter Maintenance Policy - Final Report**

### **Summary**

1. This report presents the final report arising from the review of the Winter Maintenance Policy. As Chair of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the time of the review, Councillor Bowgett will attend this meeting to present the report.

### **Background**

2. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Committee agreed the following key objectives for the review:
  - i) To review current policy in regard to cycle paths to:
    - understand the practicalities of gritting different types of cycleways and optimum timing for gritting and make available this information in order to control residents and visitor expectations
    - draw up a priority list of cycle routes to be gritted where funding and resources allow, for inclusion in the manual
    - Consult cycling groups to raise awareness of the issues
  - ii) To review current policy in regard to council funded salt bins:
    - to understand the costs involved to the council of supplying and maintaining 200+ salt bins across the city, and filling / re-filling those salt bins
    - to compare the advantages and disadvantages of providing those salt bins i.e. does the provision of salt via salt bins only benefit a minority of residents, could the money be put to better use funding the gritting of secondary routes across the city e.g. rat runs / roads with gradients, and public areas such as outside schools, public car parks etc
  - iii) To identify:

- current working practices not presently included in the manual e.g. working relationship with call centre to identify residents' concerns etc
  - reasons why the council is unable to grit certain road, cycle and pedestrian routes within the city e.g. . due to limitations in staff resources, suitable equipment and funding and make available this information in order to control residents' and visitor expectations
  - a list of secondary roads / routes for gritting where funding and resources allow
- iv) To review the Council's methods for raising awareness of the gritting policy and communicating with interested parties

### **Consultation**

3. As part of the review the considered information provided by the Assistant Director of Maintenance Services and other CYC officers. The CYC Cycling Champion and other interested parties i.e. representatives from York Cycling Forum, Cyclist's Touring Club (CTC), York Cycle Campaign, Nestle, PCT, the Blind and Partially Sighted Society and Bike Rescue, were also invited to participate in the review.

### **Options**

4. Having considered the findings contained within the final report and its annexes attached, the Executive may chose to amend and/or approve, or reject the recommendations arising from this review.

### **Analysis**

5. An analysis of all of the information gathered, is shown at paragraphs 6-48 of the final report at Annex 1, and information in support of the findings is shown at Annexes A – D.

### **Recommendations Arising from the Review**

6. The Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee have agreed the following recommendations:

In relation to cycleways, that:

- i. up-to-date information on the gritting of 'main' cycle access routes into the city centre be provided via the council's website and in other ways, so that cyclists can make an informed choice on whether or not to use their bicycle and which route to take.

In relations to salt bins, that:

- ii. the current number of council funded salt bins be maintained

- iii. in times of severe and prolonged bad weather, the council provide self-help bags at various locations across the city.
- iv. a list of sites be identified for locating the self help bags through consultation with Ward Committees and Parish Councils
- v. the criteria for the provision of the self-help bags and the list of sites be included within the Winter Gritting Policy

In relation to secondary routes, that:

- vi. A list of secondary routes be identified based on the criteria detailed in paragraphs 36-38 above
- vii. the decision on when to treat those secondary routes be the responsibility of the Winter Maintenance Group
- viii. the list of secondary routes and the criteria be included in the council's Winter Maintenance Policy

In regard to the policy and raising awareness, that:

- ix. the policy be updated to reflect all current working practices and any approved recommendations arising from this review
- x. information on why the Council are unable to grit some roads and cycle routes be included in the policy
- xi. the proposed methods of raising public awareness of the policy detailed in paragraph 45 of the final report, be adopted
- xii. the Council produce an information leaflet covering all the relevant services, with input where appropriate from the relevant providers as detailed in paragraph 51 of the final report – this information also to be made available via the council website

## **Corporate Strategy**

- 7. A robust gritting policy will provide an environment which allows workers and visitors to travel freely and safely around the city in times of severe weather, therefore maintaining the city's economy. This supports the council's strategic aims to make the city safer and enabling it to thrive.

## **Implications Associated with the Recommendations Arising from the Review**

- 8. **Financial** – There will be a cost to the council for producing the information leaflet as detailed in Recommendation xii. Exact figures are unknown at this stage, and any costs should be weighed against the benefits of keeping vulnerable residents informed in times of extreme weather conditions / emergency situations.
- 9. **Legal** – the legal implications associated with residents salting the footpath outside of their own property is detailed in Annex A at paragraph 34. There are no other known legal implications.
- 10. There are no known HR, Equalities, Crime & Disorder, ITT, Property or other implications associated with the recommendations arising from this review.

## Risk Management

18. There is no known risks associated with the recommendations arising from the review of the council's Winter Maintenance Policy.

## Recommendations

19. Members are asked to:
- i. note the contents of the final report attached and its annexes
  - ii. consider the recommendations as shown at paragraph 6 of this cover report.

Reason: To fully inform the Executive of the outcome of the review of the council's Winter Maintenance Policy.

## Contact Details

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Report Approved



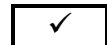
Date

16 June 2010

### Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

### Annexes

- Annex 1 – Final Report
- Annex A – Map of on-road and off-road cycle ways across the city
- Annex B – Map of cycle paths currently being treated
- Annex C – Feedback from staff at the York Hospitals Foundation Trust
- Annex D – List & Map of Salt Bin Locations

### Committee Members

- Councillor D Bowgett (Chair)
- Councillor I Gillies (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor S Galloway
- Councillor K King
- Councillor K Orrell
- Councillor C Vassie
- Councillor B Watson