

**Decision Session – Cabinet Member for
Environmental Services**

20th March 2014

Report of the Assistant Director (Highways, Waste and Fleet)

**PETITION CALLING ON CITY OF YORK COUNCIL RETAIN
EXISTING SALT BIN AND GRITTING POSITION IN THE
DRINGHOUSES AND WOODTHORPE WARD**

Summary

1. This report is in response to a petition submitted to the Council by Councillor Ann Reid with 179 name and addresses of residents of the ward.
2. The petition requests that the Council retain existing salt bin and gritting position in the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe wards

Background

3. A copy of the petition is attached as Annex 3.
4. At the Decision Session – Cabinet Member for Environmental Services held on 9 October 2013 (report Annex 1) the Cabinet members approved amendments to the winter maintenance services following a review and public consultation of the road gritting and grit bin provision.
5. This matter was called in under standard procedures and referred to the Corporate Scrutiny management Committee on 21 October 2013 (Report Annex 2) where the original decision was confirmed.
6. The petition reads *Cllr Anne Reid on behalf of 179 residents opposed to the proposed cuts in Winter Maintenance Services and calling on the City of York Council to retain the existing salt bin and gritting provision in the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward.*
7. In the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe ward there are 28 locations for grit bins following the review compared with 35 in

the previous 2012/13 season. The new criteria for the provision of grit bins provides a fair, clear and transparent system rather than the previous ad-hoc approach. In addition some bins were provided by Ward committee's but this funding is no longer available. These bins were included in the assessment process.

8. The primary gritting routes in the Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Ward for 2013/14 have remained relatively unchanged with only a section of West Thorpe and Leaside removed and reallocated to the Secondary gritting network.

Consultation

9. This report is to advise the Cabinet Member of the receipt of the petition, no external consultation has taken place.

Options

10. Option 1 – Consider the petition and reinstate the winter maintenance service to the 2012/13 arrangements.
11. Option 2 – Maintain the approved winter maintenance service for 2013/14.

Analysis

12. Option 1 The petition relates to Dringhouses and Wood Thorpe ward area but any changes in this ward would affect all the winter maintenance service throughout the Council. Maintaining the existing primary gritting network (PGR) the same as the 2012/13 winter maintenance service will not achieve the desired savings. The 2012/13 percentage of road network treated by the PGR is 45.6%. To maintain the existing total number of highway and ward grit bins would require an additional budget of £38.8k. The existing grit bin locations had been derived by an ad-hoc basis rather than a process of need by assessment. Respondents to the consultation undertaken in Summer 2013 also indicated strong support for the Council to prioritise the gritting routes to network where it is needed most, also largely agreeing with the proposed criteria for doing so. A further £20k will be required to reinstate the primary gritting route to that provided in 2012/13.
13. Option 2 –A winter maintenance review was undertaken in 2013 which included a public consultation exercise. The revised

gritting and grit bin provision was approved by the Cabinet Member and endorsed by the Corporate Scrutiny Management committee after been called-in. The percentage of road network treated this year is 39.8% which is in line with the average APSE family group.

Council Priorities

14. The City and Environmental Services directorate supports delivery of the create jobs and grow the economy, protect the environment and get York moving themes from the Council's key priorities.

Implications

Financial

15. Implementing Option 1 will requiring a £38.8k increase for the maintenance of the existing grit bins across the City and a further £20k for the reinstatement of the primary gritting route to that provided in 2012/13.

Human Resources (HR)

16. There are no HR implications identified in this report.

Equalities

17. A Community Impact Assessment (CIA) was carried out at the time of the original decision and identified arrangements to be put in place for monitoring a the effect of the original decision

Legal

18. The Council in its capacity as the Highway Authority has a duty under Section 41 of the 1980 Highways Act to maintain the public highway.

Crime and Disorder

19. There are no crime and disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

20. There are no IT implications in this report.

Property

21. There are no property implications.

Other

22. There are no other implications in this report.

Risk Management

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

Strategic Risk, arising from judgements in relation to medium term goals for the service

Physical Risks, arising from potential under investment in assets

Financial Risk, from pressures on budgets

People Risks, affecting staff if budgets decline

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

24. The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Note the receipt of the petition
2. Approve option 2

Reason: The revised policy is derived from consultation and best practice guidance and allows for routes and grit bin locations to be prioritised and ranked accordingly providing a safe, efficient and effective service.

Contact Details

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Report Approved Date 10th March 2014

Wards Affected: Dringhouses and Woodthorpe

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers

Annexes:

- Annex 1 Minutes of the Corporate and Scrutiny Committee (calling in) meeting held on 21 October 2013
- Annex 2 Minutes of the Decision Session- Cabinet member for Environmental Services held on 9 October 2013
- Annex 3 Copy of Petition