



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(REIGATE & BANSTEAD)**

HIGHWAYS WINTER EVENT UPDATE

1 MARCH 2010

KEY ISSUE

This report provides an update on the winter event effecting highways in Reigate & Banstead during 2009/2010.

SUMMARY

The winter service responded generally well to the recent bad weather but there are areas for improvement with partner working and communications.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Reigate & Banstead) is asked to:

- (i) Note the report.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The current winter event started on the 17 December 2009 and finished approximately on the 14 January 2010. The Highways Service responded in line with the current Winter Service Plan that had been agreed by Cabinet in September 2009.
- 1.2. The severe shortage of salt nationally has had a drastic effect on the ability of Surrey Highways to do anything more than the 'A' road network along with isolated communities; i.e. those without an 'A' road link.
- 1.3. The ANNEX to this report gives a chronology of preparation for winter and the local snow clearance that took place within the district of Reigate & Banstead.

2. ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The Service was reacting strongly to the winter event, but when the decision to cut our salting routes occurred in early January, there was a lack of information in a format that made it clear to the public what was happening. This resulted in a lot of criticism about the reduced network routes.
- 2.2 The level of local winter maintenance work undertaken during the snow event was considerable. However reaction was patchy overall and we need to do more to have better communication with willing partners. Officers intend to review arrangements with willing partners and build a clearer communication bridge so in future we can act more widely and quicker.
- 2.3 There was a Daily Update sheet produced for County Members, it was anticipated that this would be shared with a wider audience that in many cases it was. Communications about our activities can always be shared wider and it is intended that future Daily Update sheets will go to all Parish Councils, District Members and other partners including the press.
- 2.4 There has been some criticism of the present gritting routes and these can be reviewed with County members.
- 2.5 Salt bins were reviewed as part of the review last year, however it has been decided to review these again due to some concerns raised by members.

3. CONSULTATIONS

The Winter Service Plan was widely consulted on, however sharing information as mentioned above will help to dispel the myth that not much is being done.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications from the recommendations in this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

The delivery of a good winter service plan aids movement for all.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report and Annex lays out what has been done this winter. There is acceptance that we need to communicate better, share with partners and gain synergies by better partner working for snow clearance. In association with this the gritting routes are being reviewed.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To inform members of what action has been undertaken.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Officers are reviewing: Gritting routes, salt bin locations, communications and partner working.

LEAD OFFICER:	Roger Archer-Reeves East Surrey Highways Group Manager
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	08456 009 009
E-MAIL:	roger.archerreeves@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER:	Derek Poole
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	020 8541 7723
E-MAIL:	derek.poole@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Winter Service Manual 2009