

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)**

**DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015  
**LEAD OFFICER:** SIMON MITCHELL,  
 MAINTENANCE PLAN TEAM LEADER

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW OF COLD WEATHER PLAN AND WINTER SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

**DIVISION:** ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey undertakes an annual review of the Highways Cold Weather Plan and winter service at the end of each winter season, including the effectiveness of network coverage, operational improvements, organisational changes and partnership working arrangements. This report seeks the views of the (Elmbridge) Local Committee on the delivery of the Winter Service operations in the 2014/15 season, to feedback into the annual review.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:**

- (i) Consider the current highways cold weather provision and operations in their area and provide feedback, via their Local Committee Chairman, on any change requests.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To give the (Elmbridge) Local Committee the opportunity to provide feedback into the annual review of winter service operations.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 At the meeting on 23 September 2014 Cabinet recommended that each Local Committee should be consulted on the delivery of Highways Cold Weather operations following the 2014/15 season. In order to do this an item should be included on the spring agenda for members to provide feedback into the annual review.

**2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 The trend of relatively mild winters continued with only one short period of snow with no significant accumulations, the winter service has been effectively managed.
- 2.2 By the end of the season Kier had completed 58/65 precautionary salting runs in the west/east of the county respectively with a further 23 runs on the cold routes which is comparable with an "average" (56 runs per season)

Surrey winter. The priority 2 salting network was also treated on 4 occasions during the cold snap from 28 January which brought in a number of snow flurries but no significant accumulations. Salt supplies have regularly been replaced throughout the winter period in accordance with Cabinet's agreed recommendations.

- 2.3 Throughout their fourth year as the Council's contractor, Kier worked with officers and members on all elements of the winter service to maximise efficiency and reduce costs. This also included the operation to be fully in line with the new Appendix H guidelines with continuous dynamic checks of the spreaders throughout the season resulting in ability to target spread rates more effectively leading to savings on salt usage.
- 2.4 The footway priority snow clearing schedules have been updated and aligned with new Surrey Priority Network (SPN) maintenance hierarchy.
- 2.5 Kier have addressed last year's shortfall in the provision of grit bins and had sufficient resilience in 2014/15 to provide a timely response to member requests.

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

- 3.1 With the approach to Winter Service now well established no major changes are proposed, the annual review nevertheless provides the opportunity for Local Committees to inform this year's review:
- The precautionary salting network will generally remain the same as in 2014/15 with only minor alterations resulting from the implementation of the new Surrey Priority Network (SPN) and subject to any comments from local members, residents and officers.
  - The opportunities for partnership working arrangements with Parish and Town Councils will again be available on enquiry, providing a wider network of volunteers for pavement clearance in towns and villages not currently covered by the District and Borough arrangements. Parishes participating in the scheme currently cover Tandridge, Mole Valley, Waverley and Surrey Heath.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

#### **Gritting Routes**

The annual review provides the opportunity for Local Committee to raise change requests to the priority salting network. Where the need for further minor changes is identified the Local Committee is able to accommodate this on a 'like for like' basis provided it does not impact on the strategic gritting network.

#### **Grit Bins**

- 4.1 The trend towards milder winters has seen a reduction in restocking frequencies. As a result it is proposed that the cost of a grit bin, including annual refurbishment and filling in line with county standards, is now £947 for a 4 year period. At the end of this period where a Member or community

continue to support a grit bin an extension charge of £639 would be applied to cover the next 4 year period.

- 4.2 Grit bins that are not supported at the end of the four year maintenance period will be redistributed to other locations on the network as part of annual refurbishment programme.

### **Farmers**

- 4.3 In order to support the Council's snow clearance and gritting response during times of severe winter weather, we maintain a schedule of 52 local farmers who provide additional assistance and resilience.

- 4.4 In much of the county, especially the rural south, adequate farmer support is currently identified. There remains scope to expand coverage in Surrey Heath, Woking, Runnymede, Elmbridge and Epsom and Ewell so it is hoped the Local Committees in these areas may be able to assist with recommendations for addition resources. (Note - No responses received in 2014/15).

## **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The Winter Service will be fully funded by Surrey Highways Medium Term Plan and no financial contribution is required from the local committee budget.
- 5.2 It is, however, recognised that members and communities have the ability to fund additional grit bins on the network.

## **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 An equalities and diversity impact assessment is in place for the winter service. The winter service priority is, as far as is reasonably practicable, to safeguard the movement and well-being of all Highway users, both the residents of Surrey and those passing through the County.
- 6.2 The recommendations in this report will have no material impact on existing equality policy so the need to complete a full assessment was not considered necessary.

## **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 The Highways Service is mindful of the localism, remains committed to "self help" and community lead opportunities for winter service provision and assistance. Local Committees have the flexibility to influence minor changes to the salting network and promote further engagement with volunteer groups to assist during severe weather events etc.

## **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

### 9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to provide feedback on the 2014/15 winter service, and any proposed changes to the salting network locally. Change request and comments will be taken into account prior to the annual winter service plan being submitted to the County Council's Cabinet for approval in September.

### 10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 The annual review will consider opportunities for continuous improvement following the 2014/15 winter season and reflect feedback received from members through their Local Committee Chairman. The proposed engagement timetable is as follows:

End of season wash up meetings – Local Highway Service Teams, Service Provider, Operations and Asset Planning	March - April
Task Group Review Meeting (including progress on the 2013/14 recommendations)	April
Local Committee Chairmen advised of any changes to salting network	May - July
Environment & Transport Select Committee – Winter Service Report & Plan	September
Cabinet – Winter Service Report & Plan	September
Local Committees – Update on winter service arrangements	Autumn meetings
Winter service information pack and communications campaign	September onwards
Stakeholder and Local Committee feedback on winter service (Agenda item to be included on spring round of Local Committees)	Oct - March

#### Contact Officer:

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**Consulted:** David Harmer Chairman E&TSC  
E&TSC Winter Service Task Group Members  
Local Highway Services Team  
Kier

#### Sources/background papers:

Report of the Task Group to the Cabinet – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014  
Highway Cold Weather Plan for 2014/15



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