



Economic Prosperity, Environment & Highways Board  
9 September 2015

**Report of the Winter Performance Task Group**

**Purpose of the report:**

To outline to the Board the recommendations made by the Winter Performance Task Group, as set out in the draft Cabinet report attached as annex 1.

**Introduction:**

1. The Winter Performance Task Group reported to the Cabinet in September 2014, when various recommendations were approved for introduction in the 2014/15 winter season and further actions for the Task Group were identified.
2. The Task Group reconvened in July 2015, and the report attached sets out its findings and recommendations. Following consideration by the Board, the attached report will be submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on 22 September 2015.

**Key Points:**

3. To improve driver resilience Kier have trained additional drivers during the summer and this will provide a driver ratio close to the optimum of two drivers to one route. Additionally the kier supply chain will be in a position to provide supplementary drivers when normal activities are curtailed.
4. The cost of providing and maintaining a grit bin has been reviewed to reflect the current contract rates and restocking frequency. The trend towards milder winters over the last two years has reduced the annual restocking frequency.
5. The 2015/16 gritting network has been amended to reflect minor amendments resulting from member, resident and officer feedback in keeping with the localism agenda.

### **Changes from 2014/15 Cold Weather Plan:**

6. There are no major changes proposed to the winter service apart from minor adjustments to the salting network and an enhanced forecasting service. Kier have worked with officers and members on all elements of the winter service to effectively manage and consolidate on the improvements and recommendations that have already been achieved in previous years.

### **Winter Performance Task Group Recommendations:**

That the following recommendations of the Winter Performance Task Group, as set out in the attached report (annex 1) are endorsed and submitted to Cabinet for approval.

7. The 2014/15 Gritting Route Network with minor amendments resulting from member, resident and officer feedback be maintained for the 2015/16 season.
8. Communities are permitted to purchase additional grit bins at a total cost of £947 for an initial 4 year period and £639 for each subsequent 4 year extension while Parish Councils and other statutory bodies may be licensed to install grit bins on the public highway.
9. The Highways Cold Weather Plan 2015/16 is approved.
10. Approval of any future amendments to the Highways Cold Weather Plan be delegated to the Assistant Director Highways and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding.

### **Next steps:**

Following consideration of the recommendations by the Board, the report will be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.

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**Report contact:** Huma Younis, Scrutiny Officer

**Contact details:** 020 8213 2725, [huma.younis@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:huma.younis@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Sources/background papers:**

Annex 1- Highways cold weather plan for 2015/16- Draft Cabinet Report, 22 September 2015

Draft Highways Cold Weather Plan 2015/16 (hard copies of this document will be made available on the day of the meeting)