

Winter Maintenance Task Group meeting – 28 July 2016

Members: Stephen Cooksey, David Harmer and Ian Beardsmore

Officers: Daniel Squibb, Darren O'Connor and Sharmina Ullah

Key points raised during the discussion:

- It was explained that Simon Mitchell's role as Maintenance Plan Team Leader is currently vacant so Dan Squibb, as Asset Planning Team Manager, is covering the Winter Service responsibility this year.
- The task group were briefed on last year's report, in 2015/16, Surrey experienced a relatively mild winter and on the whole 5650 tonnes of salt was used.
- Officers explained, in order to clarify why survey statistics showed a 4.1% fall in customer satisfaction, more information will need to be requested from the Works Communications team.
- Members were advised due to the Officer change over, Local Committees have not been provided with a report, however once a programme is agreed, engagement will follow.
- Officers analysed the individual requests for network coverage and the APT recommendations that followed in response to whether the request met the criteria to be accommodated or declined.
- It was discussed that the confirmed route change requests should be shared with John Furey for approval ahead of Cabinet due to the time Kier will need to make the route changes.
- The task group agreed that Officers will have to refer back to the Members regarding the grit bins to confirm whether funding will continue over another 4 year period.
- A discussion around the Annual Review Committee Program 2016-17, established that another Winter Maintenance Task group meeting will need to be organised before reporting to the Board and Cabinet for approval.
- In order to meet the County savings target, Officers outlined the following saving opportunities;
 - re-optimising salting routes based on forecasting – saving value, £100,000 - £300,000 per annum (2017/18)

- Not refilling grit bins – saving value, £48,000 per annum (2016/17)
- Discontinuing District and Boroughs salt provision – saving value, £10,000 per annum (2016/17)
- Not servicing farmers plough – saving value, £6,000 per annum (2016/17)
- Reducing mini gritter to one – saving value, £15,700 per annum (2016/17)

(Please note – the estimated saving value was provided by Vaisala account manager not yet validated by SCC feasibility study)

- Officers and Members agreed the target will not be reachable unless changes were made to the policy.
- Due other commitments the Task Group would not be able to meet again until after the Board meeting in early September. The Task Group can meet between the meetings of the Board and the Cabinet if that was necessary. However the Board could take a view on whether it would recommend policy changes to the Cabinet.
- The Task Group wasn't prepared to recommend any policy changes given the timetable for doing so and the effect that those changes would have on the service.
- Any significant changes in salting routes made this year would be very expensive given the fact that new routing would have to be introduced in 2017-2018 as a consequence of the changes to depots.
- The view of the Task Group was that any significant changes to salt bin policies would not be acceptable to members or residents.

Actions:

- The task group proposed a further detailed report of all the data.
- John Furey should be made aware of discussions.
- Organise Winter Maintenance Task Group meeting ahead of Cabinet meeting.