

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**SAFER, GREENER AND CLEANER PLACES
CABINET MEMBER**

WINTER SERVICE REVIEW

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the review of the Winter Service Policy prior to the start of the winter season 2017/18.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member is asked to formally approve the Winter Service Policy for 2017/18 and agree its publication on the council website.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has in place a Winter Service Policy so we can respond efficiently and effectively to winter weather. Recent severe winters have meant greater investment in equipment to deal with heavy snow and very low temperatures. The policy is updated each year to improve the service and keep the roads as safe as possible for all road users. For the winter service to be effective, the overall winter period is defined as 1 October to 30 April with the core period running from 1 November to 15 April, when the worst winter weather is expected.
- 2.2 The council undertakes an annual review of the Winter Service Policy. This was put in place following the severe winter of 2010/11. The aim is to ensure that our Winter Service arrangements remain fit for purpose prior to the onset of the winter period, applying lessons learnt from the previous year's operations. We consult a wide range of stakeholders. The findings are reported to the Cabinet Member responsible for highways related matters.
- 2.3 Officers have concluded that the Winter Service Policy document used last winter performed very well and that it complied with the national Code of Practice (Well Maintained Highways July 2005). We have recently undertaken a consultation exercise to encompass the most recent guidance contained in Chapter 13 of the new Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management, "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure November 2016".
- 2.4 The Winter Service Policy continues to include the provision of devolved budget allocations for snow clearing to Town and Parish Councils, ensuring focus on Scunthorpe is retained by existing personnel. (See appendix 1).
- 2.5 We have recently made contact with all registered contractors asking for current Insurance certificates and any amendments to their available plant or hire rates. As a result, we now have an up to date register in place in readiness for the start of the 2017/18 winter season.

- 2.6 A winter preparedness article is ready for publication in the autumn edition of the council's resident's publication. We will also continue with the social networking site communications that we successfully used last season. e.g. Twitter etc.
- 2.7 The information that relates to Lead Snow Wardens is being updated prior to the season. All green salt bins will be replenished as required throughout the winter period. Additional green bins are also available if required at a cost of £145 per bin.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to formally approve the Winter Service Policy for 2017/18 and agree its publication on the council website.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 There is an undertaking in the current policy to review our winter service arrangements annually. The proposed amendments will ensure that the policy continues to meet the requirements of the national code of practice.
- 4.2 Doing nothing is not a viable option. We are constantly exploring areas in which to improve our winter service.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 The current contracts for weather forecasting and ice prediction have expired. The procurement process for the 2017/18 season is well advanced and will soon be concluded. This may result in financial savings.

5.2 Staffing

- 5.2.1 A staffing rota for the full season is now in place.

- 5.3 There are no other resource implications to highlight.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

- 7.1 Officers consult with a wide range of stakeholders in reviewing our Winter Service arrangements. These include:
- Elected Members
 - Town and Parish Council representatives
 - Local Lead Snow Wardens and Snow Wardens
 - Trade Union representatives
 - Local residents

Feedback received informs the final Winter Service Policy used for the upcoming winter season.

7.2 Outcomes of the consultations indicate that current treatment priorities remain relevant (see Appendix 2). From assessment of other responses, officers would make the following recommendations:

- All salt bins are checked on a monthly basis by the local Ward Officer. During severe weather conditions the frequency of these checks will be increased as required.
- Where the content of a salt bin is misused by local residents (use of salt on private driveways etc), the bin may be removed from that location following consultation
- Revision of the Snow Warden information and Snow Code - to be published by the Town and Parish Councils
- Liaise with Adult Social Care for information regarding vulnerable residents during severe periods of adverse weather.

7.3 From the consultation meetings requests for additional routes were proposed (see Appendix 2). Officers have assessed the requests received against appropriate criteria and conclude that they do not meet the requirements for inclusion on either the Precautionary Salting or Secondary Salting route programme.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet approves the Winter Service Policy for 2017/18 and agrees its publication on the council website.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Highways Act 1980
Transport Act 1968
"Well Managed Highway Infrastructure - Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance-revised Nov 2016.
Winter Service Policy 2016/17

APPENDIX 1 Devolved Budget by Town & Parish Council for Snow Clearing

	(£)
Alkborough	250
Amcotts	250
Appleby	250
Ashby Parkland	250
Barnetby-le-Wold	1,250
Barrow upon Humber	1,500
Barton	2,000
Belton	1,500
Bonby	250
Bottesford	2,000
Brigg	2,000
Broughton	2,000
Burringham	400
Burton upon Stather	1,500
Cadney cum Howsham	250
Crowle and Ealand	2,000
East Butterwick	150
East Halton	250
Eastoft	250
Elsham	250
Epworth	2,000
Flixborough	1,000
Garthorpe and Fockerby	250
Goxhill	1,000
Gunness	1,000
Haxey	2,000
Hibaldstow	1,000
Holme	150
Horkstow	150
Keadby with Althorpe	1,000
Kirmington and Croxton	250
Kirton in Lindsey	1,500
Luddington and Haldenby	250
Manton	150
Melton Ross	150
Messingham	2,000
New Holland	500
North Killingholme	250
Owston Ferry	750
Redbourne	250
Roxby Cum Risby	250
Saxby All Saints	250
Scawby	1,000
South Ferriby	400
South Killingholme	500
Thornton Curtis	250
Ulceby	1,000
West Butterwick	600
West Halton	250
Whitton	250
Winteringham	750
Winterton	2,000
Wootton	250
Worlaby	250
Wrawby	750
Wroot	250
Total	43,150

APPENDIX 2

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Feedback from Winter Service Review Consultations with Members and stakeholders

Salting Priorities

High Risk priority: Principal and main routes, hospital and bus routes to keep road network open so that businesses and commuters are able to keep on the move and essential deliveries can be made and vital services are accessible.

Medium risk priority: Pedestrian precincts, estates roads and main car parks, linking with the above reasons on a community level.

Low risk priority: minor routes, cycleways and footways. Tourist attractions.

Salt Bins

Revisit criteria and locations of yellow bins and look at cyclic maintenance of both yellow and green bins.

Snow Code

- Overall feeling that more training [refresher] is needed for Town and Parish Councils on snow code, role of Parish snow warden: their responsibilities, risk assessment etc
- Scope of budget allocation to Town and Parish Councils in prolonged, severe weather. ie what can it be spent on.
- Publish Snow Code in Direct magazine.