

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	19 March 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Community Winter Self Help
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/056

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been produced in response to the motion raised by Councillor Yuill on 11 September 2012 to provide local communities with the materials and equipment necessary to undertake snow clearing and gritting within Aberdeen City.

The motion requested that

“That this Council agree to instruct officers to report to the appropriate committee on the feasibility of providing local communities with the materials and equipment necessary to undertake snow clearing and gritting and that this report should seek to include information about such schemes operating elsewhere in Scotland and the UK.”

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) to note the content of this report
- b) to agree with the Roads Service approach to assisting community groups with winter self help
- c) to report back to this committee as part of the Winter Services Operations Report in May 2013.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure will be in accordance with the Council's approved Revenue budgets for Winter Maintenance and Emergencies 2012-2013 of £1.512M. It should be noted that the expenditure for the previous three winters has been £2.12M in 2011-12, £2.08M in 2010-2011 and £2.4M in 2009-2010.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This report has no direct implications in relation to Equalities & Human Rights Impact Assessment.

Aberdeen – the Smarter City

We will promote Aberdeen as a great place to live, bring up a family, do business and visit.

We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions

Single Outcome Agreement, National Outcomes 5, 6, 10, 12, & 14

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

By providing Community Groups with salt to clear footways, there will be a more positive perception of the Council Winter Service Provision. There will be a reduction in insurance claims against Aberdeen City Council. It is hoped that the encouragement of community involvement may engender a better community spirit among those involved.

6. REPORT

Aberdeen City Council Roads Service has put in place a scheme which allows for the provision of salt and treatment advice to community groups. This is broadly in keeping with the advice given by the Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE). At APSE's Northern region workshop "Winter Maintenance: new initiatives and approaches" –on the 05 October 2012 a paper was presented on Community Self Help which concluded that the most appropriate approach was

“to provide salt and advice on treating of footways to willing community groups, allowing a quicker response to icy conditions”.

The report was based on the assumption that the only resource not readily available to residents is rock salt, the simple tools required such as shovels, buckets and wheelbarrows being readily available in residents' garages and sheds. Aberdeen City Roads Service is in agreement with this approach.

A press release was issued advertising the proposed issue of 1 tonne bags of rock salt to appropriate groups and locations. This scheme was included in the Roads Winter Services Plan approved at the EP&I committee on 11 September 2012. To date 34 groups have received 1 tonne bags of rock salt following the press release. Links to press releases are given below.

A poll of councils was carried out at the APSE National Roads, Street Lighting and Winter Maintenance Conference in March 2013 as to whether councils had adopted the practice of providing Community Self Help and the results are shown in Appendix A. The majority of councils that had taken forward self help had done so by putting large grit bins in the recycling centres, only two had provide a single shovel next to the bin when this was stolen it was not replaced. Falkirk Council used recycling centres but supplemented these in times of snow and icy conditions with 1 tonne bags. Many of the councils were still considering the self help but due to their normal winter conditions did not consider it worthwhile whilst others are interested in the operation put forward by Aberdeen City and are looking for the thoughts of those who took up the offer for delivery of the 1 tonne bags.

There was only one authority at the Conference, Durham County Council, who had gone down the route of supplying the 1 tonne bags plus barrows, shovels and gloves to the communities.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Item 3.5 Motion approved at EP&I Committee 11 September 2012

Item 8.4 Report approved at EP&I Committee 11 September 2012

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/CouncilNews/ci_cns/pr_Salt_171012.asp

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/CouncilNews/ci_cns/pr_saltbags_121212.asp

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/CouncilNews/ci_cns/pr_communitysalt100113.asp

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A

Local Authority	Community Salt (Yes/No)	How is it delivered	Wheelbarrows	Shovels	PPE
Aberdeen City	Yes	1 Tonne Bags to Communities	No	No	No
Aberdeenshire	Yes	Community Bins in Recycling Centres	No	No	No
Angus	No				
Argyll & Bute	Yes	Community Bins in Recycling Centres	No	No	No
City of Edinburgh	No				
Clackmanashire					
Dumfries & Galloway	No				
Dundee	No				
East Ayrshire	Yes	Community Bins in Recycling Centres	No	Yes	No
East Dumbartonshire					
East Lothian					
East Renfrewshire	Yes	Community Bins in Recycling Centres	No	No	No
Falkirk	Yes	Community Bins in Recycling Centres plus 1Tonne bags when weather is bad	No	No	No
Fife					
Glasgow					
Highland					
Inverclyde					
Midlothian					
Moray	No				
North Ayrshire	Yes	Community Bins in Recycling Centres	No	Yes	No
North Lanarkshire					
Orkney	No				
Perth & Kinross	No				
Renfrewshire					
Scottish Borders					
Shetland	No				
South Ayrshire					
South Lanarkshire					
Stirling					
West Dumbartonshire					
West Lothian					
Western Isles					