

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	7 September 2010
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Roads Winter Services Plan
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/10/212

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is intended to provide Members with the proposed Winter Service Plan and to explain significant changes.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) to note the content of this report
- b) to agree the "Roads Winter Service Plan" (Appendix A)

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure will be in accordance with the Council's approved Revenue budgets for 2010-2011, £1.499M

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Lack of a Winter Services Plan will put the City at risk of snow and ice related problems also increase the Council's liability in claims for injury

SOA & VDFL:

Aberdeen is an attractive place to do business 1.v,xviii

Aberdeen will have high quality employment opportunities for citizens 2.vii

Ensure education is appropriate to pupil needs and ensure pupils leave school with skills essential to living 3.viii

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Failure to have a robust "Roads Winter Service Plan" will leave the Council more vulnerable to 3rd party insurance claims.

6. REPORT

Background

Aberdeen City Council, Winter Maintenance Specification and Winter Maintenance Plan have evolved over many years and are amended to reflect both national and local requirements. It should be noted that in line with the recommendations in the Well Maintained Highways the word Maintenance has been altered to Services

This year's amendments have been made to reflect:-

- a) monitoring of salt use/stock
- b) resources available over the holiday period
- c) provide information through the Zone

a) Salt Usage and Stocks

There can be no confidence that all will receive supplies of salt throughout next winter to maintain desired stock levels. Should it be considered that the combination of stock/delivery/forecast is likely to leave the Council vulnerable, then usage will be limited to 200 tons per day. This will allow two runs on Priority roads and a small amount left to service grit bins and footways. Should stocks become critical, the service will be reduced further.

The use of grit/sand could, again, be considered. This does have an immediate effect at the time application by providing grip. There is however a legacy to any application of grit/sand, which may last for years. Last year's applications are still causing problems for gully emptying and street sweeping, and will do for some time.

This year the amount of salt in stock at the commencement of winter operations will be approx 3,000 tonnes more than the start of the 2009-2010 season

b) Resources available over the holiday period

During the holiday period, the following definitions are applied

Friday 24 December –	Normal Working Day
Sat/Sun 25/26 December -	Weekend
Mon/Tues 27/28 December –	Public Holiday
Wed/Thur 28/29 December –	Normal Working Day
Friday 30 December –	Public Holiday
Sat/Sun 1/2 January –	Weekend
Mon/Tues 3/4 January –	Public Holiday
Wednesday 5 January –	Normal Operations recommence

During the winter period and throughout the holiday period, there will be a minimum of one standby team and one rosta team, along with the two nightshift drivers.

On 28/29 December there will not be a full compliment of operatives, as these days are taken as leave for non rosta, standby and nightshift operatives.

The standby team will be available to be called out at any time and can cover the 10 Priority Gritting Routes as well as the 2 Priority Footway Routes.

c) Public Information

One of the problems identified last winter was the need to provide up to date information on current action on the roads. This year, following meetings with the Corporate Communications team and the Service Design and Development team it is intended to provide information on the Council Web Site. The information provided will enable members of the public to check expected road conditions, confirm main gritting routes and check action currently underway.

This Web Page is not expected to be available at the start of the winter; however there is a target to have this operational by early December.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Mike Cheyne

01224 522984



mcheyne@aberdeencity.gov.uk

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Report on Winter Maintenance Operations

18th December 2009 – 3rd January 2010

[http://councilcommittees/Published/C00000140/M00001557/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](http://councilcommittees/Published/C00000140/M00001557/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

Report to EP&I 31 May 2010 – Winter Maintenance Operation 2009-2010

[http://councilcommittees/Published/C00000140/M00001560/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](http://councilcommittees/Published/C00000140/M00001560/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)