

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24 October, 2011

CONTACT OFFICERS: Alex J Deans
Head of Highways Engineering
(01753) 87 5633

Dean Trussler
Emergency Planning Officer
(01753) 87 5131

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

WINTER PREPARATIONS

1 **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Committee of the main elements of the Winter Maintenance Plan 2011-12 for gritting and snow clearing of the public highway and to inform the committee of contingency plans in place for periods of extreme winter weather.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3 **Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- **Prosperity for All**

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The 2011-12 annual revenue budget for Winter Maintenance activities is £170,000.

(b) **Risk Management**

Snow and ice on the roads would have an impact on the whole community of Slough, hitting the vulnerable the hardest. There would also be an economic impact on the businesses of Slough.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

5 **Supporting Information**

Winter Maintenance Plan 2011-12- For Gritting and Snow Clearing of the Public Highway

- 5.1 Legislation was introduced in 2003 requiring “Local Authorities have a legal duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practical, that safe passage along a highways is not endangered by snow and ice”.
- 5.2 The “highway” denotes the network of roads, footpaths and cycleways within the borough that fall within the responsibility of the Highway Authority.
- 5.3 The Highways Engineering section provides winter service in order to facilitate a safer travelling environment for all highway users and to minimise disruption to road users.
- 5.4 The Council does not have the resources, financial or otherwise, to treat all roads in the borough. Selected roads are classified as Primary or Secondary routes.
- 5.5 Primary routes comprise of main roads, strategic bus routes and include routes to emergency service bases and total 135km. Primary routes are treated with salt in response to forecasted frost, ice or snow (see appendix 1).
- 5.6 Secondary routes comprise of busy roads, access to schools and some less busy bus routes and total 30km. Secondary routes are treated during particularly hazardous conditions (see appendix 2).
- 5.7 The Council has a contract with MeteoGroup to provide detailed weather forecasts at 13.00 and 18.00 during the winter season.
- 5.8 The Council’s term contractors Enterprise provide the workforce and gritting vehicles.
- 5.9 During periods of heavy snow fall shopping areas and footways outside schools are cleared.
- 5.10 Enterprise offer private gritting arrangements to other Council Services and private businesses/organisations. A letter is issued in June every year to this effect and copied ward Councillors (see appendix 3).
- 5.11 The Winter Maintenance Plan is reviewed annually during the summer months following feedback from public transport operators; businesses; residents and Councillors. The 2011-12 Winter Maintenance Plan has recently been finalised and is available on the Council’s website at the following link:
<http://www.slough.gov.uk/services/8828.aspx>

Contingency Plans for Extreme Winter Weather

- 5.12 There are no specific emergency plans for extreme weather, instead we rely on the well tested and successful generic emergency plans that were used during the last two winters. We work closely with our partners to ensure the safety of the community of Slough.

6 **Conclusion**

To inform the Committee of the main elements within the Winter Maintenance Plan 2011-12 and to provide details of the contingency plans in place to deal with extreme winter weather.

7 **Appendices Attached**

Appendix 1: Primary Routes
Appendix 2: Secondary Routes
Appendix 3: Private gritting arrangements letter

8 **Background Papers**

Highways Act 1980
The Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management 2005