

Associated guidance for this document can be found [here](#). Each section has a link to the relevant section within the guidance document.

1 Details of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function)

1.1 Directorate	Environmental Services
1.2 Service	Winter Maintenance

1.3 Title of the activity (i.e. the policy, strategy, service, project or function):
Winter Service Policy

1.4 Brief description of the activity:
As the Highway Authority the Council are under a duty, as far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. Therefore, this Policy sets out how the Council intends to fulfil this duty (of clearing the snow and ice) during the periods of inclement weather.

1.5 If the activity involves working with other directorates, partners or joint commissioning please state who is involved:
Sunderland Council Emergency Planning and Highways Teams. Neighbouring Local Authorities in terms of boundary roads – County Durham, South Tyneside, and Gateshead. As well as Highways England who have responsibility for the A19 & A1M.

1.6 Will all or part of the activity be delivered through a provider external to the Council? If Yes, please refer to the Corporate Procurement Processes
No

1.7 If Yes, please explain what element(s) of the activity will be delivered through an external provider:

1.8 Which areas of the city will be impacted?	
Whole City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coalfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
East	<input type="checkbox"/>
North	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input type="checkbox"/>
West	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal Council Activity – Impact on employees	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.9 Is the activity targeted at protected characteristics or any other key groups?	
All of the below	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age (e.g. older people, younger people/children, a specific age group)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability (e.g. mobility, long term health conditions, sensory impairment or loss, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief (including no belief)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care Experienced People	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people who are cared for or care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
People vulnerable to socio-economic deprivation (e.g. unemployed, low income, living in deprived areas, poor/no accommodation, low skills, low literacy etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Completed by:	Andy Wilson – Environmental Services Manager
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Version	Status	Author	Comments	Date Issued

2 Data and Intelligence

[Guidance for this section](#)

2.1 What data and intelligence has informed the activity?

Data supplied to SCC includes detailed weather forecasts from DTN MeteoGroup and SCC's weather station provider – Vaisala. Sunderland currently host 3 dedicated weather stations located strategically across the City. The weather data enables the Duty Management team to produce a coordinated plan of action in view of the predicted weather conditions. Other valuable weather-related data received by SCC includes activity updates from Highways England and action plans from Durham County Council, which inform Sunderland of what activities are being performed in our coldest neighbouring local authority. Long range forecast data is also be provided by our NEPO approved Road Salt supplier - ICL, who factor the predictions of global long-range forecasts in order to determine the quantities of road salt required regionally ahead of the winter period. Other valuable advice data ICL includes the regional state of HGV driver and road haulier availability, a shortage of which during winter could severely impact Sunderland's ability to respond during prolonged periods or severe cold weather.

Sunderland City Council's existing shared intelligence of which routes throughout the city are critical to ensuring the continued safe and uninterrupted movement of Emergency Services and other Essential Services, Customers, Commuters, Commerce, Business, Delivery, and Visitors. This shared intelligence comes from a variety of Services and Partners including Network Operations (Highways Dept), Environmental Services, Nexus, Northumbria Police, the NHS and Adult Social Care.

2.2 Summary of data / intelligence / consultation outcomes to inform understanding of differences in:

- the way people use, access or experience your activity;
- how the activity may impact; and/or
- outcomes for different groups?

Through the constant monitoring of weather forecast data and the conditions observed across the Priority and Secondary Road networks of the City, the Winter Maintenance team can respond immediately to counter the effects of cold weather on road surfaces and deal with any accumulations of snow and ice.

At such times of adverse weather, key workers, recipients of social and healthcare, emergency services, commuters, road transport users, visitor, and delivery drivers etc, are wholly dependent on the roads of Sunderland remaining safely open to traffic throughout the whole winter period, and particularly so during periods of marginal and adverse cold, frost, and snow.

3 Equality and Human Rights

[Guidance for this section](#)

3.1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued and safe movement of emergency and essential services and produce by road is essential to ensure that people who require additional support measures such as Safeguarding, Emergency Services, Social Care, Health Care, and essential vehicle access and deliveries continue to have unhindered access.

3.2 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.3 Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.4 Age (older ages, children and young people, middle ages, an age range or a specific age)

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.5 Disability (mobility, long-term health conditions, sensory, learning disability, neurological diversity or mental health)

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.6 Gender reassignment (the process of transitioning from one sex to another)

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.7 Marriage and Civil Partnership

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.8 Pregnancy and maternity (including breastfeeding)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.
3.9 Race (colour, ethnicity, country of origin, culture, etc.)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.
3.10 Religion / Belief (including no belief)
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.
3.11 Sex (male or female)
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
No impact
3.12 Sexual orientation
What impact will the activity have?
Not Applicable
Explain how/why:
No impact
3.13 Will the activity impact on an individual's Human Rights as enshrined in UK law?
What impact will the activity have?
Positive
Explain how/why:
The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

3.14 Other vulnerable groups and people with complex needs (e.g. veterans, children and young people cared for and care experienced, carers, domestic abuse victims and survivors, ex-offenders, homeless or multiple complexities/characteristics)

What impact will the activity have?

Positive

Explain how/why:

The continued safe movement of vehicles and people around the city, during times of inclement winter weather, will ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network.

4 Reducing socio-economic and digital inequalities

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

4.1 Impact on residents' financial circumstances	Positive
4.2 Impact on housing, including type, range, affordability, quality and/or condition	Not Applicable
4.3 Impact on digital inclusion or access	Not Applicable
4.4 Impact on education, skills and lifelong learning	Positive
4.5 Impact on employment, including quality and access	Positive

4.6 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The continued safe movement of people around the city will help to ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network. The purpose of the policy and the delivery of a winter maintenance service is designed to mitigate the negative impact that adverse winter weather could potentially have on how people and business conduct the normal daily routines.

4.7 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

The safe flow of traffic will continue around the city during periods of marginal and significant winter cold.

5 Improving population health and reducing health inequalities

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

5.1 Help promote healthy living	Positive
5.2 Help promote safe and inclusive environments	Positive
5.3 Impact on children, young people and families	Positive
5.4 Impact on natural and built surroundings	Positive
5.5 Impact on accessibility and active travel encouraging active behaviours	Positive
5.6 Impact on living independently	Positive

5.7 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The continued safe movement of people around the city will help to ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network. The purpose of the policy and the delivery of a winter maintenance service is designed to mitigate the negative impact that adverse winter weather could potentially have on how people and business conduct the normal daily

routines.

5.8 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

The safe flow of traffic and people will continue around and through the city during periods of marginal and adverse weather conditions due to snow and ice.

6 Carbon reduction and sustainability

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

6.1 Adapting our behaviour (environmentally significant)	Positive
6.2 Impact on biodiversity and natural environment	Positive
6.3 Impact on energy efficient built environment	Positive
6.4 Impact on renewable energy generation and storage	Positive
6.5 Impact on travel and active transport	Positive
6.6 Impact on the green economy	Positive
6.7 Impact on waste, recycling and consumption	Positive

6.8 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The continued safe movement of all types of vehicles around the city will help to ensure that traffic does not become unnecessarily stuck during periods of adverse weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network. Whilst the gritting of roads treated across the network is undertaken by HGV diesel vehicles, the consequences to the environment and our ability to travel economically, of not treating the roads would be far greater in terms of lost time, wasted fuel during traffic jams, potential road traffic accidents, and the effect on recycling services throughout the city. Environmental Services are committed to continued introduction of EV vehicles where they adequately meet service needs, and the increased use of low carbon alternative sources of power in line with the Council's carbon neutral ambitions.

6.9 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

The safe flow of traffic and people will continue around the city during periods of marginal and significant winter cold.

7 Community wealth building

[Guidance for this section](#)

Will the activity:

7.1 Impact on community wealth and social value	Positive
7.2 Impact on social inclusion, integration, and fostering good relations	Positive
7.3 Impact on crime reduction, anti-social behaviour and community safety	Positive
7.4 Impact on access to services	Positive

7.5 Outline the impact your activity will have, including how you propose to mitigate any negative impacts and maximise positive outcomes

The continued safe movement of people around the city will help to ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the adverse conditions presented by the weather across the Priority and Secondary Road network. This will ensure that that access to services will continue.

7.6 Outline how you will measure the anticipated impact(s)

The safe flow of traffic and people will continue around the city during periods of marginal and significant adverse

winter weather conditions.

8 Key Actions

Any key actions identified throughout the IIA should be recorded here. This will be the action plan linked to your activity and should be implemented to ensure all inequalities or negative impacts are mitigated.

Key Actions	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Review Date

Responsible officer sign off:	
Name	
Job Title	
Responsible officer for reviewing actions:	
Name	
Job Title	

Once the Integrated Impact Assessment is complete, please send to IIA@sunderland.gov.uk.