

## CABINET MEETING 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

**Title of Report:**

Winter Service Policy 2021/22

**Author(s):**

Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to adopt and publish the Winter Service Policy Statement 2021/22 and the associated Winter Grit Bin Policy 2021/22.

**Description of Decision:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve and adopt the Winter Service Policy 2021/22
- 2) Approve the publication of the Winter Service Policy 2021/22 on the Council's Website
- 3) Approve and adopt the Grit Bin Policy 2021/22.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?**

**\*Yes**

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

Under the Highways Act 1980 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 there is a requirement on the Council to introduce systems to ensure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic by ensuring, so far as is reasonably practical, safe passage along the highway without danger from snow or ice, the policy ensures that clear and appropriate plans are in place to meet all required legal duties.

**Alternative options to be considered:**

That the Council does not adopt a Winter Service Policy

This was rejected as without a Winter Service Policy the Council would fail to meet its legal duties as it would have no structured plans or management arrangements in place.

**Impacts analysed;**

Equality ☐ Privacy ☐ Sustainability ☐ Crime and Disorder ☐

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes/**

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?**

**Yes**

**Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?**

**Yes**



**WINTER SERVICE POLICY 2021/22**

**Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to adopt and publish the Winter Service Policy 2021/22 and the associated Winter Grit Bin Policy 2021/22

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve and adopt the Winter Service Policy 2021/22
- 2) Approve the publication of the Winter Service Policy 2021/22 on the Council's Website
- 3) Approve and adopt the Winter Grit Bin Policy 2021/22

**3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The Highways Act 1980 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 requires authorities to introduce systems to ensure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic by ensuring, so far as is reasonably practical, safe passage along the highway without danger from snow or ice.
- 3.2 The Council aims to maintain the city's highways in a condition that is safe and efficient for use by vehicles and pedestrians. A Winter Service Policy provides a clear outline on how the Council will manage and respond to winter weather that adversely impacts upon the highway and other priority areas.

**4.0 Winter Service Policy Statement 2021/22**

- 4.1 A Winter Service Policy 2021/22 has been prepared to respond in a proactive and structured manner through the winter of 2021/22 to ensure that the Council discharges its duties during the winter period.
- 4.2 The Council through the policy will provide a winter service to the highway network and priority pedestrian areas. This will ensure as far as reasonably practicable, that designated roads and footpaths are treated, and snow is removed.
- 4.3 The proposed Winter Service Policy 2021/22 is attached within Appendix 1.
- 4.4 As a key policy of the Council it is proposed that Cabinet approve and adopt the revised Winter Service Policy 2021/22 and that the document is published on the Council's website and other communication media so that the winter service arrangements are accessible

- 4.5 As part of the Winter Service arrangements a review has taken place by Officers in Environmental Services and the Highways Team of the previous highway network treating plans and new updated and revised treating routes have been developed. These can be seen within Appendix 2.

## **5.0 Winter Grit Bin Policy 2021/22**

- 5.1 During winter weather periods the support from the local community and volunteers plays a valuable contribution in helping to combat the effects and impact of winter weather. This usually takes the form of residents assisting to clear snow and ice on the pavement outside of their home or from public spaces. During severe winter weather conditions, and at a time when local services resources are under pressure, the Council welcomes this community resilience approach
- 5.2 The provision of Grit Bins has increased significantly in recent years and the management, maintenance and stocking of these Grit Bins is impacting on the wider winter service response in the clearing snow and ice as well as creating a higher financial impact upon service budgets and carbon reduction targets.
- 5.3 The current location plans for Grit Bins across the City identify 276 Grit Bins are currently located and being managed by the Council. The breakdown of the Grit Bin numbers across areas can be seen below:

<b>Locality Area</b>	<b>Number of Grit Bins Winter 20/21</b>
Coalfields	63
Sunderland North	24
Washington	51
Sunderland East	28
Sunderland West	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>

- 5.4 As part of the Winter Service Policy 2021/22 it was necessary to develop a Grit Bin Policy that outlines new criteria assessment for all new bin requests. All existing Grit Bins will remain as long as they are in good order and free from damage and vandalism.
- 5.8 The proposed Winter Grit Bin Policy 2021/22 is attached within Appendix 3.

## **6.0 Reasons for the Decision**

- 6.1 Under the Highways Act 1980 and the Traffic Management Act 2004 there is a requirement on the Council to introduce systems to ensure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic by ensuring, so far as is reasonably practical, safe passage along the highway without danger from snow or ice, the policy ensures that clear and appropriate plans are in place to meets all required legal duties.

## **7.0 Alternative options to be considered:**

### **7.1 That the Council does not adopt a Winter Service Policy**

This was rejected as without a Winter Service Policy the Council would fail to meet its legal duties as it would have no structured plans or management arrangements in place

## **8. Impact Analysis**

### **(a) Equalities -n/a**

### **(b) Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) – n/a**

### **(c) Sustainability –** The policy will employ appropriate considerations for any environmental impacts.

### **(d) Reduction of Crime and Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion –** No impacts are anticipated from this decision.

## **8. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

### **(a) Co-operative Values –** The are no implications

### **(b) Financial Implications.** Provision for the cost of the delivery of winter services exists within the revenue budget.

### **(c) Legal Implications –** The Head of Law and Governance has been consulted and confirms that legally compliant procedures are being pursued.

### **(d) Health & Safety Considerations –** The delivery of the winter service is fully assessed in line with current Health and Safety requirements

### **(e) Procurement –** All service and purchasing arrangements impacting from the policy are covered within existing procurement frameworks and arrangements put in place through the Corporate Procurement Team

### **(f) Risk Analysis-** This policy supports the management and discharge of the Council's legal duties and provides a safer environment for road users and pedestrian across the City

## **9. List of Appendices**

APPENDIX 1 – Winter Service Policy 2021/22

APPENDIX 2 - Highway network treating plans

APPENDIX 3 – Winter Grit Bin Policy 2021/22

## **10. Background Papers – N/A**

