

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12 October 2017

Report of the Head of Service for Highways – Phil Durnell

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Winter Service Plan & Proposal to Lower Treatment Intervention Level

(Appendices 'A' & 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

Harvey Danson, Tel: 01772 538182, Area Highways Manager,
harvey.danson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The report sets out a proposal to lower the road surface temperature at which gritting is commenced on the highway network in Lancashire. The report also includes the recommendations of the Internal Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group on this matter.

The rationale for the proposed change is attached at Appendix 'A'. The relevant section of the Winter Service Plan including the proposed amendment, as set out in the report, is attached at Appendix 'B' for information.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to consider:

- (i) The recommendations of the Internal Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group on the proposed lowering of the treatment intervention level as set out in the report.
- (ii) The proposed amendment to the Winter Service Plan, as set out in the report and at Appendix 'B'.

Background and Advice

National guidance in the form of a Code of Practice entitled 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure', published in 2016, introduced a change from reliance on specific

guidance and recommendations and challenges highway authorities to adopt a risk based approach to service standards to be determined by local highway authorities. The guidance covers winter services and as a consequence of this and advances in transport and route based weather forecasting, a review has been undertaken of the road surface temperature at which winter gritting should commence.

It is proposed to lower the road surface temperature intervention level from +1.0C to +0.5C for winter gritting treatment on the highway network in Lancashire.

Appendix 'A' sets out the rationale for making this change. Should the change be approved, the Winter Service Plan would be amended, as shown at Appendix 'B', to reflect the change.

The Winter Service Plan and any changes to it will, in effect, be how the county council demonstrates that it has fulfilled its duty under Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

Consultations

A scrutiny task and finish group considered this proposal at its meeting 26 July 2019.

The task and finish group agreed to recommend Cabinet to:

1. approve the proposal to reduce the treatment intervention level.
2. request the Internal Scrutiny Committee in Spring 2019 to review the impact of its implementation on the forthcoming winter service.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The main risk generally relates to litigation and reputation by lowering the intervention level, although the risk of litigation generally results from the county council not following their agreed policies and procedures.

Financial

From reviewing winter service costs over previous years it is anticipated that a saving of c£110k per annum will be achieved as a result of amending the winter service plan as outlined in this report (as detailed in Appendix 'A'). This will be built in to the medium term financial strategy from 2019/20.

Legal

The county council has a duty under S41(1A) of Highways Act to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by

snow or ice. Careful consideration is required to be satisfied that this duty is still being fulfilled even though the treatment intervention level is proposed to be reduced

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Appendix A – Treatment Intervention Reduction Summary of the Proposal to Reduce Treatment Intervention Level	01/09/2017	Harvey Danson 01772 538182
Appendix B – Revised Winter Service Plan	01/09/2017	Harvey Danson 01772 538182

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A