

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 20 July 2018

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Highways Winter Service Plan update

Contact for further information:

Rob Wilson, Area Highway Manager (West),
rob.wilson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Update on the 2017/18 winter season and proposed updates to the Highways Winter Service Plan for the forthcoming season.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- I. Note the content of the report and comment.
- II. Note that the task and finish group relating to grit bin assessment and provision is currently in progress and will report back to the service.

Background and Advice

The Highways Winter Maintenance Service is provided in line with the Winter Service Plan. The 2017/18 winter season saw an eventful winter with a higher number of precautionary and reactive treatments than in recent years. This was due to more nights with marginal temperatures combined with shower activity earlier in the season and then the harsher 'Beast from the East' events later in the season. The service went to plan and there were no issues with winter resilience.

The Winter Service Plan is guided by national guidance produced by the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG). It was reported to scrutiny in November 2017 that updated guidance was due to be published by the NWSRG which was likely to require changes to the treatment matrix in the Winter Maintenance Plan for the 18/19 season. The publication of the updated guidance has been delayed and is now not likely to be available for implementation for the 18/19 season.

A separate report is due to be submitted to Cabinet in August detailing a proposal to change the intervention level from the current plus 1 degree to plus 0.5 degree. If approved, this would be the only proposed change to the Winter Service Plan for the 18/19 season.

A Task and Finish group was established following Scrutiny in November 2017 to look at the provision of grit bins across the network. This is currently in progress and the findings of the group will be considered upon receipt.

Changes to the network are considered as the service become aware of them and the policy within the Winter Maintenance Plan is applied. This ensures that the network is treated in accordance with policy. Regular collaboration takes place with neighbouring authorities throughout the year to ensure that gritting routes across border boundaries are consistent.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A