

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

24 MAY 2016

WINTER MAINTENANCE 2015/16 ACTIVITY REVIEW

1. REVIEW

- 1.1 This report outlines the service delivery, weather severity and outturn expenditure on winter road maintenance for 2015/16.
- 1.2 The full standby period for winter treatment was established as 2 October 2015 to 31 March 2016 with three week lead in and out periods with reduced resources available on standby. Due to a cold snap the full winter cover was extended over the weekend of 27 to 30 March 2016 and similarly at the end of the three week lead out until the end of April.
- 1.3 Although deemed by many as a mild but somewhat wet winter, the carriageway saw temperatures dip to minus figures (centigrade) overnight on a number of occasions requiring treatment with day temperatures rising above zero. Many of our customers are unaware of our treatment activities during such events where freezing conditions require attention. Routes frequently required retreatment with rain washing off the salt after treatment. Disruption due to snow was limited to a small number of days across the county, with impact in the glens.
- 1.4 The relevant weather statistics are provided in **Appendix 1** of this report, and the treatment figures are provided in **Appendix 2**. Analysis to compare the 2015/16 winter season against the last 15 years has indicated that 2015/16 had:
 - equal fifth lowest number of priority carriageway routes treated in the morning;
 - equal fourth lowest number of priority carriageway routes treated in the evening period; and
 - fourth lowest number of priority footway treatments.
 - second lowest number of days with temperatures below zero
 - fifth lowest number of days with fresh lying snow in.
- 1.5 The coldest temperature during the winter on the road network was recorded on 13 December 2015 at Ruthven crossroads at minus 6.7 degrees.
- 1.6 Approximately 12,185 tonnes of salt was used during the winter of 2015/16 excluding leachate. 19,000 tonnes of salt was in stock at the start of winter.
- 1.7 Salt is procured by Tayside Contracts under tender for Dundee City Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Angus Council gaining the benefits of economies of scale. Salt was procured through our normal suppliers and with all UK road authorities having increased their resilience since 2010/11, salt orders were timeously received. Over the summer supplies will be restocked to 19,000 tonnes (13,000 tonnes of which will be marine salt (to be stored in Forfar and Arbroath) and 6,000 tonnes rock salt held in the covered store in Forfar) for the start of winter 2016/17.
- 1.8 With regard to weather forecasting and data management and ice station maintenance this will continue through the existing contract tendered with Dundee City, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray Councils let by the Tayside Procurement Consortium. This is an example of shared services.
- 1.9 The A90 trunk road in Angus, which is maintained by BEAR Scotland Ltd on behalf of Transport Scotland, experienced generally the same weather conditions as the local roads but it was not necessary for the council to assist with winter maintenance on the trunk road at any time.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The net budget for winter maintenance was set for 2015/16 at £2,663,000. The Standing Charges of £1,161,883 included plant, standby arrangements, depot costs, (fixed costs) leaving a balance of £1,501,117 (56.37% of the budget) available for the day-to-day operational costs including salting/snow clearing activities and weather forecast costs, (variable costs).
- 2.2 The unaudited out turn expenditure figures for the 2015/16 winter service indicate a total cost of £2,340,018. When compared with the 2015/16 revenue budget allocation for winter maintenance of £2,663,000, an underspend of £322,982 has resulted. The completion of the 2015/16 annual accounts process is currently ongoing. Any alteration to this position will be reported at a later date to the council as part of the finalisation of the 2015/16 annual accounts process.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Winter Maintenance Expenditure 2015/16 Review Weather Statistics

Appendix 2 – Winter Maintenance Expenditure 2015/16 Operational Activity Statistics