

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 29 MAY 2018**

**WINTER MAINTENANCE 2017/18 ACTIVITY REVIEW**

**1. REVIEW**

- 1.1 This report outlines the service delivery, weather severity and outturn expenditure on winter road maintenance for 2017/18.
- 1.2 The full standby period for winter treatment was established as 30 October 2017 to 30 March 2018 with three week lead in and out periods with reduced resources available on standby.
- 1.3 The winter just experienced was one of the most severe in recent times where the carriageway saw temperatures dip to minus figures (centigrade) overnight on numerous occasions requiring treatment with day temperatures later rising above zero. Many of our customers are unaware of our treatment activities during such events where freezing conditions require attention. During earlier parts of the season routes frequently required retreatment with rain washing off the salt after previous treatment. There was a period of extensive freezing prior to Christmas with hard frosts experienced which required repeated treatment. Also a prolonged period of snow was experienced in late February/early March known as the "Beast from the East" with snow continuing into early April extending the season, noting that this is considered in 2017/18 budget.
- 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 2017/18 winter season against the last 15 years has indicated that 2017/18 had:
- highest number of priority carriageway routes treated in the morning;
  - highest number of priority carriageway routes treated in the evening period;
  - highest number of priority footway routes treatments;
  - highest number of days with temperatures below zero
  - fifth equal number of days with fresh lying snow in.
- 1.5 Approximately 19,400 tonnes of salt was used during the winter of 2017/18 excluding leachate. 18,475 tonnes of salt was in stock at the start of winter. For comparison an average winter uses circa 12,000 tonnes of salt, and the holding ahead of winter is 19,000 tonnes with salt being re-ordered during the winter.
- 1.6 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 approximately 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 2018/19.
- 1.7 With regard to weather forecasting and data management and ice station maintenance this together with Dundee City, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray Councils by the Tayside Procurement Consortium last summer. This is an example of shared services and collaborative working.
- 1.8 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 and it was not necessary for the council to assist with winter maintenance on the trunk road at any time during 2017/18.

- 1.9 As Members will be aware as agreed at the budget setting Committee and as agreed as part of the change process regarding winter savings, footway gritting capacity is to be reduced for the winter of 18/19 from 20 to 10 gritters and routing will be worked on through the summer months with prioritisation focused in the seven burghs. In addition together with colleagues from Dundee and Perth and Kinross, Angus has been looking at areas of winter that can be harmonised across Tayside with a view to further savings and efficiencies and these will be brought before Committee in due course.

## **2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1 The net budget for winter maintenance was set for 2017/18 at £2,700,000. The Standing Charges of £1,228,637 included plant, standby arrangements, depot costs, (fixed costs) leaving a balance of £1,471,363 (54.5% 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 2017/18 winter service indicate a total cost of £3,519,232. When compared with the 2017/18 revenue budget allocation for winter maintenance of £2,700,000, an overspend of £819,232 has resulted subject to finalising costs including salt stock reconciliation. The completion of the 2017/18 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 2017/18 annual accounts process.

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### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Winter Maintenance Expenditure 2017/18 Review Weather Statistics  
Appendix 2 – Winter Maintenance Expenditure 2017/18 Operational Activity Statistics