

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

6 JUNE 2017

WINTER MAINTENANCE 2016/17 ACTIVITY REVIEW

1. REVIEW

- 1.1 This report outlines the service delivery, weather severity and outturn expenditure on winter road maintenance for 2016/17.
- 1.2 The full standby period for winter treatment was established as 27 October 2016 to 30 March 2017 with three week lead in and out periods with reduced resources available on standby
- 1.3 Although deemed by many as a mild, 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 2016/17 winter season against the last 15 years has indicated that 2016/17 had:
 - equal fourth lowest number of priority carriageway routes treated in the morning;
 - equal third lowest number of priority carriageway routes treated in the evening period; and
 - second lowest number of priority footway treatments.
 - lowest number of days with temperatures below zero
 - lowest number of days with fresh lying snow in.
- 1.5 The coldest temperature during the winter on the road network was recorded on 21 November 2016 at Ruthven crossroads at minus 7.8 degrees.
- 1.6 Approximately 10,500 tonnes of salt was used during the winter of 2016/17 excluding leachate. 18,659 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 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 2017/18.
- 1.8 With regard to weather forecasting and data management and ice station maintenance this is due to be tendered with Dundee City, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray Councils by the Tayside Procurement Consortium this summer. This is an example of shared services and collaborative working.
- 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 and it was not necessary for the council to assist with winter maintenance on the trunk road at any time during 2016/17.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The net budget for winter maintenance was set for 2016/17 at £2,714,000. The Standing Charges of £1,178,898 included plant, standby arrangements, depot costs, (fixed costs) leaving a balance of £1,535,102 (56.56% 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 2016/17 winter service indicate a total cost of £2,189,405. When compared with the 2016/17 revenue budget allocation for winter maintenance of £2,714,000, an underspend of £524,595 has resulted. The completion of the 2016/17 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 2016/17 annual accounts process.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Winter Maintenance Expenditure 2016/17 Review Weather Statistics
Appendix 2 – Winter Maintenance Expenditure 2016/17 Operational Activity Statistics