

# **BRIEFING NOTE**

**TO: ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**  
**DATE: 8 September 2011**

**RE: WINTER SERVICE WORKING GROUP REPORT**

## **Purpose**

To receive the report of the Winter Service Working Group established by the Panel at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

## **Background**

At its meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 the Panel established a Working Group to investigate the Winter Service. It was considered that this is an important service which has a direct impact on the daily lives of all during adverse weather conditions. This included the public, businesses and emergency services alike. The working group agreed to review a number of areas including the revised gritting routes which arose due to the relocation of the depot, provision of grit bins and relevant legislation.

The Panel are asked to consider the final report attached as appendix 1 to this report and approve the recommendations as detailed on page 12 and 13, for submission to Cabinet.

## **Recommendations**

**That:**

- (1) That as many grit bins, as is safe to do so, be removed from gritting routes;**
- (2) That subject to a suitable replacement service being provided, as many grit bins as it is safe to do so be removed from non-gritted routes;**
- (3) That signs on grit bins be amended to include information informing people of the likelihood of prosecution should grit be stolen;**
- (4) That gritting routes should include as many bus and school routes as possible;**
- (5) In terms of gritting priority for school routes, the following priority order be given:-**
  - (a) Secondary school;**
  - (b) Junior school;**
  - (c) Infant school.**

- (6) If it is necessary to modestly increase the budget for gritting to include more bus and school route this be supported for as long as increased effectiveness can be demonstrated;**
- (7) Any savings from grit bins should be re-invested into the winter maintenance service;**
- (8) A letter offering grit bins and supplies of salt at cost price, including delivery charges, be sent to the following:-**
  - (a) Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors;**
  - (b) Medical practices;**
  - (c) All Council public buildings, including libraries and leisure centres.**
- (9) That the trial for community based gritting in town and district centres be supported and a report on the future results be considered by the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel;**
- (10) That the trial of the community gritting scheme with the Co-op be supported and that a report on the results be presented to the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel and if it is successful, this scheme should be extended in the future;**
- (11) That the possibility of creating a pool of reserve gritting vehicles with regional Local Authority neighbours be explored;**
- (12) Concern be expressed regarding the outsourcing of gritting by Centro.**

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