

# Report to Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

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**Decision to be taken on or after 26 September 2019**

**Decision can normally be implemented at least  
3 working days after decision has been signed.**

**Cabinet Member Report No. T29.19**

**Title:** Winter Service Policy

**Date:** 18 September 2019

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**Local members affected:** All Electoral Divisions;

*For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444*

## **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for TfB's Winter Service Policy. It confirms the level of service currently and historically provided by BCC.

TfB's policy for provision of the Winter Service is to pre-treat Buckinghamshire's highway network and/or other agreed sites to inhibit insofar as is practicable the formation of snow and ice and to post-treat its network to clear any residual accumulations of snow and ice so that, as far as is reasonably practicable, it remains safe and passable at all times. The Winter Service will run from mid-October to mid-April and may be extended in exceptional circumstances.

## **Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the Winter Service Policy is approved. The Policy will undergo annual review in conjunction with the annual update of the Winter Service Operations Plan.**

**A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision**

1. The United Kingdom Roads Liaison Group's (UKRLG) Code of Practice "Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" recommends that Authorities should formally approve and adopt policies and priorities for Winter Service, which are coherent with wider objectives for transport, integration, accessibility and network management, including strategies for public transport, walking and cycling.
2. Authorities should develop local service levels for Winter Service which define the Overall Winter Period, the Core Winter Period, the level of resilience and treatment networks.
3. This Winter Service Policy sets out BCC's service for ice prevention and snow clearance. The approach to winter maintenance has previously been detailed in a Winter Service Operations Plan, which will continue to be produced annually. The Policy confirms the level of service currently and historically provided by BCC through its delivery partner Transport for Buckinghamshire and was referenced in the approved Highway Services Policy.

**B. Other options available, and their pros and cons**

4. The Winter Service Policy sets out the service levels currently being implemented by TfB on behalf of BCC. This policy proposes no change to the prevailing levels of service.

**C. Resource implications**

5. Resource implications remain unchanged as this Policy sets out the levels of service currently being delivered by Transport for Buckinghamshire.

**D. Value for Money (VfM) Self-Assessment**

6. This Winter Service Policy describes the optimum blend of response and coverage of service during the winter period, having assessed risks posed by ice and snow across the network, given the resources available and reflection on the historic practices carried out by TfB in recent years.

**E. Legal implications**

7. There are no legal implications as this Policy confirms current and historic practice in delivering the Winter Service.

**F. Property implications**

8. There are no new property implications. Of course, TfB will continue to rely on its operational depots and salt stores in order to deliver the Winter Service.

**G. Unitary Council**

9. It is assumed the Unitary Council will continue to provide the Winter Service in accordance with this Policy.

## **H. Other implications/issues**

10. As this Winter Service Policy confirms the levels of service currently being delivered, there are no other implications or issues.

## **I. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views**

11. TfB consults with County, District and Parish Councillors through Stakeholder Conferences, Focus Groups, Member Meetings, liaison through our Local Area Technicians (LATs) and of course through social media. All feedback is considered when undertaking the annual review of the Winter Service.

12. This Policy confirms the levels of service currently being delivered for ice prevention and snow clearance during the winter period. The Policy does not propose any change to the current service, and so consultation has been focussed on the annual review of the service as occurs every year.

## **J. Communication issues**

13. The Winter Service is clearly described in TfB's website and through the Member and Parish Portals.

## **K. Progress Monitoring**

14. The Winter Service is continually reviewed during the winter season to assess effectiveness of response given prevailing weather conditions and resources available, including plant, equipment, operators and salt stocks.

## **L. Review**

15. The Winter Service undergoes an annual review in the preparation of the Winter Service Plan. Lessons learned from the previous winter season are taken into account in updating the Plan. This Policy will undergo an annual review in conjunction with the preparation of the annual Winter Service Plan.

16. The policy forming part of this decision will be reviewed after the 2018/19 winter season.

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## **Background Papers**

TfB Winter Service Policy

TfB Winter Service Plan

UKRLG Code of Practice: Well Managed Highway Infrastructure (published document)

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## **Your questions and views**

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 25 September 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)*