

To: Maidstone Joint Transportation Board

By: **Spencer Palmer** Head of Highway Operations

Date: 18 July 2012

Subject: Local Winter Service Plan

Classification: Information only

Summary: This report outlines the arrangements that have been made between Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council to provide a local winter service in the event of an operational snow alert in the borough

Introduction

1. Kent County Council Highways & Transportation (KCC H&T) takes its winter service responsibilities very seriously and is proactive as well as reactive to winter weather conditions. Winter service costs KCC in the region of £2m every winter and needs careful management to achieve safety for the travelling public and to be efficient. The Highways Operations teams in H&T work to ensure that the winter service standards and decisions made are consistent across the whole county.

KCC H&T prepares an annual Winter Service policy and plan which are used to determine actions that will be taken to manage its winter service operations. The policy will be submitted for consideration to the Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee on 20th September 2012.

District based winter service plans

2. The Local Winter Service Plan for Maidstone is a working document. It will evolve and be revised as necessary throughout the year. The document will be available on the KCC website. This document complements the KCC Winter Service Policy and Plan 2012-13. Following successful work in previous years with district councils, arrangements have again been put in place this year whereby labour and plant from Maidstone Borough Council can be used during snow days. Additionally H&T will supply a quantity of a salt/sand mixture to district councils to use on the highway network. The details are contained in the plan attached at **Appendix A**. This plan enhances the work that H&T will continue to do in providing a countywide winter service. The local plan comes into effect when a snow operational alert is declared that affects the district of Maidstone.

Pavement clearance

3. Areas for clearing pavements have been identified in the district plan. These are the areas where local knowledge has indicated that people are concerned and would most like to be kept clear when there is snow and ice.

Farmers

4. The work that our contracted farmers have done in recent years is greatly appreciated and has made a big difference in keeping rural areas clear on snow days. Again this year farmers will have predetermined local routes and will use their own tractor and KCC ploughs for clearing snow. The ploughs supplied are serviced by KCC each year. Each farmer will have plans detailing the roads that they are responsible for ploughing. When snow reaches a depth of 50mm on roads in their areas the farmers will commence ploughing notifying KCC as agreed in their contract. The plans of the local farmer's routes are in the local plan, although some personal information will not be available via this report or the website.

Conclusion

5. Working in partnership with the district councils will enable KHT to provide an effective winter service across the county.

Recommendations

6. Members are asked to note this report .

Background documents: Kent County Council Winter Service Policy and Plan 2012/13

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