

APPENDIX G

Departures from the Code of Practice for Maintenance Management Recommendations for Winter Service

Recommendation	Description	Adopted by WBC	Comments	Reason for not adopting recommendation
1	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. They should also take into account the wider strategic objectives of the authority.	Yes	Winter Service Plan reviewed in accordance with recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) and COP as amended December 2009. Plan to be approved by Individual Decision 8 October 2014.	
2	Authorities should consider, consult on and formally adopt local service standards for resilience of their winter service in terms of number of days continuous severe conditions salting on a defined Minimum Winter Network for the Overall Winter Period and for the Core Winter Period.	Yes		
3	Authorities should review their approach to climate change and in particular their resilience to prolonged cold weather.	Yes		
4	Authorities should consider whether collaborative arrangements such as shared services, lead authority arrangements, collaborative service procurement and sharing depots and salt stock, would prove effective and provide value for money approach to increasing winter service resilience.	Yes	Joint procurement with Berkshire Unitaries for sensor maintenance and forecasting services.	

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5	Authorities should determine critical areas and infrastructure in conjunction with key public services and other stakeholders and seek to ensure that appropriate winter treatment has been considered by the appropriate party.	Yes	See Item 1.	
6	Authorities should ensure effective communication of information for the public before and during normal and severe winter conditions.	Yes	Publication of 'Safer Driving this Winter on West Berkshire Roads' leaflet and Winter Service Plan and associated route plans via the website.	
7	Authorities should ensure that there is appropriate consultation and communication with other highway authorities, key public services and other stakeholders and seek to ensure improved service for the public.	Yes	All adjoining authorities and stakeholders informed of daily decisions via the MeteoGroup UK message board.	
8	Authorities should formally approve, adopt and publish, in consultation with users and key stakeholders, a Winter Service Plan based on the principles of this Code	Yes	See Item 1.	
9	Authorities should define treatment route plans for carriageways, cycle routes and footways for pre-treatment and snow conditions, based upon the general maintenance hierarchy, but adapted to take into account the factors identified by this Code.	Yes	Route plans in place where appropriate.	The Council only salts specified sections of footway network during prolonged hazardous conditions and when snow is forecast. Remote cyclepaths are not treated.

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10	Authorities should prepare contingency Winter Service Plans for severe weather conditions, which include possibilities such as salting a Minimum Winter Network. Authorities should seek agreement on plans in advance with other highway authorities and key public services such as hospitals and public transport providers. There should be a co-ordinated approach to implementing Minimum Winter Networks across adjacent Authorities.	Yes	The Council has a defined Contingency network which is detailed in the Winter Service Plan. Route plans are also in place.	
11	Authorities should explore the potential for mutual aid in salt supply and other aspects of winter service and should make contingency arrangements in advance.	Yes	Alternative salt supply arrangements in place with WBC's Term Maintenance Contractor.	
12	Authorities should take full advantage of decision support systems and services to enable timely, efficient and accurate decision making.	Yes	West Berkshire Council makes use of information from roadside sensors and detailed site specific forecasts issued by MeteoGroup UK in its decision making process.	

APPENDIX G (cont'd)

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13	Authority should continually monitor performance during service delivery and respond effectively to changing conditions or network incidents.	Yes	KPI's in Term Maintenance Contract and Winter Service Plan.	
14	To ensure appropriate level of competence, training and development needs of all personnel should be established and reviewed annually, including health and safety and appropriate vocational qualifications. Training should then be provided where appropriate before the Winter Service season.	Yes	All Duty Officers trained to City and Guilds Supervisor Standard. All Term Contractor WS operatives have City & Guilds 6157 accreditation (superseded by 6159). 4 no. West Berkshire Council staff accredited with City & Guilds Winter Service Supervisors qualification.	
15	Authorities and relevant organisations should provide training and conduct periodic exercising to test plans for responding to severe weather events.	Yes	Ad hoc audits are undertaken to test Winter Service Plan during winter season.	
16	Authorities and salt suppliers should treat the supply of salt as a service rather than a simple commodity purchase.	Yes	Term Contractor / Compass Minerals re-stocking arrangements in place.	

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17	As a means of enhancing local salt storage capacity, Authority and salt suppliers should jointly consider supplier owned salt stocks held on a short or long term basis in a number of widely distributed locations around the country. A joint approach may include agreements such as purchase of some or all stock by the end of season or provision of land.	Yes	The salt stock held at Chieveley Depot will be 1,500 tonnes for the coming season. However, should the need arise the Council have access to an additional 1,000 tonnes of salt held off site by the Council's Term Contractor (Volker Highways Ltd).	
18	Authority should seek a broad approach to salt supply, for example establishing framework contracts with more than one supplier.	Yes	Arrangements in place with Highway Term Contract for alternative salt supplies.	

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19	Authorities should consider whether efficiency benefits can be obtained from collaborative salt procurement and should also consider ways to improve the balance of risk between salt suppliers and themselves, e.g. Longer contracts, performance contracts with minimum guaranteed purchase and supply, and contracts that include supply of salt and investment facilities.	Yes	Arrangements in place with Compass Minerals to maintain a total salt stock of 2,500 tonnes.	
20	All aspects of the Winter Service Plan, including service delivery arrangements, should be reviewed annually in consultation with key stakeholders to take account of changing circumstances.	Yes	The Winter Service Plan is reviewed annually.	