

Individual Decisions

The attached reports will be taken as an
Individual Portfolio Member Decisions on:

25th September 2006

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Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Highway Winter Service Plan 2006/2007		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Keith Chopping	on:	Monday 25th September 2006
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1527		

Purpose of Report: To seek approval of the 2006/2007 Winter Service Plan.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Planning and Highways approves the draft Highway Winter Service Plan 2006/2007 for implementation and publication.

Reason for decision to be taken: Government guidance for highway management recommends the provision of an annually reviewed operational plan for winter service.

List of other options considered: None.

Key background documentation:

- draft Winter Service Plan 2006/2007
- draft Precautionary Salting route Plan 2006/2007

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1 Winter Service Plan 2006/2007

- 1.1 Several requests for roads to be added to the primary salting network were received over the course of the last winter from Members, various Parish Councils and members of the public.

Most of the requests for salting do not achieve the criteria for inclusion in the primary salting network. However approval is now sought for the roads listed below to be promoted from Secondary to Primary status, which do meet the criteria.

Parish/Town	Road	From	To
Inkpen	Rooksnest Lane	Pebble Hill	Un-named road to Combe
Kintbury	Inkpen Road	High Street	Blandy's Hill
Kintbury	Blandy's Hill	Inkpen Road	Pebble Hill
Kintbury	Pebble Hill	Blandy's Hill	Rooksnest Lane

- 1.2 No new secondary salting routes have been proposed by Members, Parish Councils or members of the public.
- 1.3 Officers recommend that for the winter season of 2006/2007 the primary network should increase by the inclusion of the 5.4 Km of new roads described in 1.1 and that the secondary network should decrease by the same amount. The total primary salted network now covers **37.7%** of the total road network in West Berkshire.
- 1.4 A draft copy of the Council's revised leaflet "Safer Driving This Winter on West Berkshire Roads" can be found in Appendix 6. This leaflet will be available in all Council buildings with public access as well as on the Council's website.
- 1.5 The salting of the secondary network will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Winter Service Plan although there is no specific budget for this operation.
- 1.6 A report highlighting the recommendations detailed in the Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management - 'Well Maintained Highways' (July 2005) is given in Appendix 4.

2 Operational Arrangements for 2006/2007

- 2.1 The winter service period for 2006/2007 will operate from Monday 30 October 2006 (Week 44) to Sunday 8 April 2007 (Week 14) although this period will be extended if weather conditions dictate. The decision to salt will be made by the West Berkshire Duty Officer, based on forecast information supplied by the Met Office through the London Weather Centre. Once a decision is made, the Duty Officer informs the Council's Term Maintenance Contractor Fitzpatrick and if instructed, the defined primary network is treated with an application of rock salt to prevent the formation of hoarfrost and or ice.
- 2.2 During prolonged hazardous conditions (defined as sub-zero conditions that have been experienced for at least 72 hours), a decision whether to salt the secondary road and town centre footway networks will be made by the Council's Winter Service Manager. This role is normally performed by the Principal Engineer (Highways Maintenance) or in his absence by a Project Engineer.

- 2.3 As detailed in the Council's information leaflet 'Safer Driving this Winter on West Berkshire Roads', the Council does not recommend the use of bicycles during periods of prolonged hazardous conditions. With the exception of shared carriageway/cycleway routes on a primary or secondary salting route, shared footway/cycleway and remote cycleway networks are not salted when hoar frost, ice or prolonged hazardous conditions are forecast. Being part of the carriageway, shared carriageway/cycleway routes on the primary and secondary salting route networks will be salted.
- 2.4 There is no provision within the current winter service budget for farmers or other contractors to formally assist the Council in the removal of snow deposits from the rural road network. Snow clearance of the Primary and Secondary routes will continue to be carried out in accordance with the Winter Service Plan by the Council's Contractor Fitzpatrick using their own equipment.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Best Value Review benchmarking results.
 Appendix 2 – Summary of the Winter Operations for 2005/2006.
 Appendix 3 – Proposed Revisions to Salting Network.
 Appendix 4 – List of Exceptions to Winter Service Policy and Plan.
 Appendix 5 -- Winter Service Policy and Plan 2006/2007 (Draft) – due to its size this document is not included within this report but a copy is located in the Member's room.
 Appendix 6 – Revised "Safer Driving This Winter on West Berkshire's Roads" leaflet (draft)

Implications

Policy:	The proposed Winter Service Policy will ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that the road network in West Berkshire is maintained to a safe standard during the winter months for all highway users including residents as well as those travelling through the District.
Financial:	The cost of providing the call out service, providing salt bins and undertaking up to 50 primary precautionary salting runs, is included in the 2006/2007 revenue budget. (The costs of salting the secondary network and snow clearance operations are not included). The Winter Service budget for the provision of salt bins is currently fully committed. No additional salt bins can be added until an identical number is removed. The cost of salting the additional 5.4 Km of new road network as detailed in 1.1 and Appendix 4 for 2006/2007 will be funded from existing service budgets.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	Following a House of Lords ruling, the Council has had a statutory duty since 10 October 2003 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.
Environmental:	There are issues surrounding the impact of rock salt on the environment and these are addressed in the current Highway Term Contract.
Equalities:	None arising from this report.
Partnering:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Graham Jones supports the proposed draft Winter Service Plan.
Select Committee Chairmen:	Councillor Jeff Brooks accepts the officer's guidance and supports the proposed draft Winter Service Plan.
P&L Committee Chairman (where appropriate):	N/A
Ward Members:	The recommendations include requests for additional gritting previously requested by Members.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Keith Woodhams accepts the officer's guidance and supports the proposed draft Winter Service Plan.
Advisory Members:	N/A
Local Stakeholders:	The Winter Plan is widely circulated, every year, to stakeholders including adjoining authorities, emergency services, Parish and Town Councils and their views are incorporated into the report for the subsequent winter.
Officers Consulted:	Mark Edwards, Bob Watson, Liz Howlett, Jenny Noble
Trade Union:	Not Applicable

I understand and agree with the reasons given for not including shared footway/cycleways, remote cycleways and safer routes to school schemes in the primary / secondary salting routes. I do not have any additional comments to make.

Jenny Noble.

This looks fine. I assume Keith is happy to take this as an individual decision? Will there be a press release afterwards
Liz Howlett

APPENDIX 1

Results of Benchmarking Exercise – Summer 2006

Authority	Percentage of Highway Network Salted as Primary Routes	Percentage of Highway Network Salted as Secondary Routes
Bath & Northeast Somerset	34	Nil
Bracknell Forest District Council	39	9
Hampshire County Council	26	20
Reading Borough Council	29	22
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	34	13.5
Slough Borough Council	27	11
Swindon Borough Council	26	26
West Berkshire District Council	37.5	20
Wiltshire County Council	25	25
Wokingham District Council	37	10

APPENDIX 2

Summary of Winter Operations 2005/2006

Month	Precautionary Salting runs on Primary Network	Part/Wet Patches/spot treatment	Precautionary Salting runs on Secondary Network
April 2005	1	0	0
November 2005	11	16	0
December 2005	11	4	0
January 2006	13	9	0
February 2006	17	1	0
March 2006	6	2	0
Total for financial year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	59	32	0

Number of days with multiple salting runs	3	5	0
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Operation days for year April 2005 to 31 March 2006.	56	24	0
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Met Office Forecast Sites – Verification Figures

Membury Sensor

Month	Number of Hoar Frosts Forecasted	Actual Number of Hoar Frosts formed	False Alarm*
November 2005	12	10	2
December 2005	9	12	0
January 2006	14	12	3
February 2006	15	11	4
March 2006	12	8	4
Total for period 01 November 2005 to 31 March 2006	62	53	13
April 2006	2	2	0

Notes

- False Alarm – Where ice conditions are forecast but actual temperatures remain above zero.

APPENDIX 3 - Proposed Additions/Deductions to Salting Network & Salt Bin Schedule

1. Roads to be added to the Primary Salting Network 2006/2007

Road	From	To	Length (Km)	Reason
Rooksnest Lane, Inkpen	Pebble Hill	Un-named road to Combe	3.0	Request from Parish Council
Pebble Hill, Kintbury	Blandy's Hill	Rooksnest Lane	1.1	Request from Parish Council
Inkpen Road, Kintbury	High Street	Blandy's Hill	0.9	Request from Parish Council
Blandy's Hill, Kintbury	Inkpen Road	Pebble Hill	0.4	Request from Parish Council
Total			5.4	

2. Roads to be deleted from the Primary Salting network

None this financial year

3. Roads to be added to Secondary Salting Network:

None this financial year

4. Roads to be deleted from Secondary Salting Network:

Road	From	To	Length (Km)	Reason
Rooksnest Lane, Inkpen	Pebble Hill	Un-named road to Combe	3.0	Upgraded to Primary
Pebble Hill, Kintbury	Blandy's Hill	Rooksnest Lane	1.1	Upgraded to Primary
Inkpen Road, Kintbury	High Street	Blandy's Hill	0.9	Upgraded to Primary
Blandy's Hill, Kintbury	Inkpen Road	Pebble Hill	0.4	Upgraded to Primary
Total			5.4	

5. Previously approved salt bins to be added to schedule:

None this year.

6. Salt bins to be deleted from schedule:

None this year.

APPENDIX 4

Code of Practice for Maintenance Management Recommendations for the Winter Service Policy and Plan 2006/2007

Recommendation	Description	Adopted by WBC	Comments	Reason for not adopting recommendation
1	Authority to formally approve and adopt a policy for it's Winter Service.	4	To be approved by Individual Decision 25 September 2006	
2	Authority to formally approve, adopt and publish in consultation with others a Winter Service Operational Plan.	4	Distributed to : Council and Parish Members Adjoining Councils Highway Agency and Agents Emergency Services Media Organisations Motoring Organisations Network Rail	
3	Authority to define Primary and Secondary treatment routes for carriageways based upon the road hierarchy and other local factors.	4	Precautionary Salting Route Plan	
4	Authority to define treatment routes for footways based upon footway hierarchy and other local factors.	4	Winter Service Plan Appendix I	
5	Authority to define treatment routes for promoted schemes such as 'Safe Routes to School' and 'School Bus Routes' based upon the general maintenance hierarchy but adapted to take in to account local factors identified.	8		The Winter Service should be co-ordinated to ensure that route planning and treatment regimes meet the road users reasonable expectations for consistency. The Council only salts specified sections of the footway network during prolonged hazardous conditions. Precautionary salting of isolated lengths of footway on a 'safe route to school' would be inconsistent with this policy and would present a greater hazard.

APPENDIX 4 cont'd

Code of Practice for Maintenance Management Recommendations for the Winter Service Policy and Plan 2006/2007

Recommendation	Description	Adopted by WBC	Comments	Reason for not adopting recommendation
6	Authority to co-ordinate and co-operate with adjoining local and strategic authorities to ensure that route planning and treatment regimes meet road users' reasonable. Expectations for consistency and value for money	4	Consultation exercise undertaken summer 2003. Winter Service Plan issued to all adjoining Councils.	
7	Authority to produce and publish a non-technical summary of its proposed Winter Service Operational Plan including plans of treated network together with guidance on safe use of network.	4	'Safer Driving this Winter on West Berkshire Roads' leaflet published and circulated through public offices and libraries.	
8	Authority to establish arrangements for information to be made available to local radio, police etc.	4	Winter Service Plan Appendix N	
9	Authority to have an annual review of its Winter Service Operational Plan in consultation with users and key stakeholders to take in to account changing local circumstances.	4	Winter Service Plan issued to all Members, Parish Councils, adjoining local authorities & emergency services. All requests for salting received over season are reviewed for possible changes to routes and salt bin schedule.	
10	Authority to take full advantage of weather forecasting information services.	4	West Berkshire Council makes use of information from roadside sensors and detailed site specific forecasts issued by the Met Office in its decisions making process.	

APPENDIX 4 cont'd

Code of Practice for Maintenance Management Recommendations for the Winter Service Policy and Plan 2006/2007

Recommendation	Description	Adopted by WBC	Comments	Reason for not adopting recommendation
11	Authority to annually review arrangements for delivering its Winter Service in consultation with all service partners, consultants and contractors to ensure clear terms of reference for the provision and management of all resources, Health and Safety and insurances.	4	Contractual requirement with Term Contractor Fitzpatrick.	
12	Authority to undertake annual technical review (including calibration) of all equipment, vehicles and plant prior to the start of the Winter Service season.	4	Contractual requirement with Term Contractor Fitzpatrick. Roadside weather stations annually serviced by Sensing Systems and Vaisala	
13	Authority to annually review training and development needs for all personnel who deal directly with implementing Winter Service, in order that any necessary training can be provided prior to the start of the Winter Service season.	4	Formal training of WBC staff undertaken with Vaisala in November 2005. Fitzpatrick operatives all accredited to City & Guilds 6157 now superseded by 6159.	
14	Authority should manage the purchase, storage and use of de-icing materials within the principles of Best Value, sustainability and consortia purchasing.	4	Contractual requirement with Term Contractor Fitzpatrick.	
15	Authority to hold comprehensive and accurate records of all Winter Service activities. The use of data loggers should be considered for this process.	4	All records held with Highway Manager	

APPENDIX 5

Draft Winter Service Policy and Plan 2006/2007

APPENDIX 6

Draft Revised 'Safer Driving this Winter on West Berkshire Roads' leaflet

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Proposed Waiting Restrictions, High Street and The Broadway, Thatcham		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Keith Chopping	on:	25th September 2006
Forward Plan Ref:	ID 1271		

Purpose of Report:

To seek authority from the Executive Member for Planning and Highways to progress to statutory consultation and advertisement on the proposed amendments to the waiting restrictions in High Street and The Broadway, Thatcham and resolve accordingly.

Recommended Action:

That the Executive Member for Planning and Highways resolves to approve the recommendation as set out in this report.

Reason for decision to be taken:

Approval from the Executive Member is required before the Traffic Regulation Order can be progressed to statutory consultation and advertisement.

List of other options considered:

N/A

Key background documentation:

Thatcham Parking Study report (4th March 2005).

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1 Background

- 1.1 Although there are parking restrictions in High Street and The Broadway, Thatcham local traders have commented that the limited waiting restriction does not allow sufficient time for people to visit a number of local shops. A request has been received to extend the time of the limited waiting restrictions from half hour to one hour.
- 1.2 The restrictions in The High Street and The Broadway were included in the Thatcham Parking Strategy, the recommendations of which are programmed for implementation during the 2007/08 financial year. whilst the limited waiting restrictions could be subsequently incorporated within the implementation of the Thatcham Parking Strategy next year it is proposed that they are amended as described in paragraph 1.1 in advance of the main strategy implementation in order to assist Thatcham town centre businesses.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the existing half hour limited waiting restrictions be changed to one hour by way of statutory consultation and advertisement process and subsequently implemented, should there be no objections.

Appendices

None

Implications

Policy:	None arising from this report
Financial:	The cost of advertising the Traffic Regulation Order and implementing the proposals will be funded from the Capital Programme.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	The Traffic Regulation Order will follow the statutory consultation and advertisement procedure.
Environmental:	None arising from this report.
Equalities:	None arising from this report.
Partnering:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	No response received from Councillor Graham Jones by the end of consultation period (e-mail sent on 1 st September). Any subsequent comments will be verbally reported when the decision is made.
OSC Chairmen:	No response received from Councillor Jeff Brooks by the end of consultation period (e-mail sent on 1 st September). Any subsequent comments will be verbally reported when the decision is made.
PDC Committee Chairman:	N/A
Ward Members:	No response received from Councillor's Alexander Payton and Paul Pritchard by the end of consultation period (e-mail sent on 1 st September). Any subsequent comments will be verbally reported when the decision is made.
Opposition Spokesperson:	No response received from Councillor Keith Woodhams by the end of consultation period (e-mail sent on 1 st September). Any subsequent comments will be verbally reported when the decision is made.
Local Stakeholders:	Will be consulted as part of the statutory consultation process.
Officers Consulted:	Mark Cole and Mark Edwards.
Trade Union:	N/A
Other:	