

FORTHCOMING EXECUTIVE DECISIONS LIST SUBMISSION

Reference: Democratic Services to fill	Key? Reason?
Title: Winter Service Policy 2015/16	
<p>Proposed decision: Each year Highway Operations reviews the Council's Winter Service Policy and the operational plan that supports it in light of changes in national guidance. The committee is asked to endorse the proposed changes to the Winter Service Policy for 2015/16 for the Cabinet Member to agree and sign off</p>	
Decision details	
<p>Decision taker: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Expected date: 16 September 2015</p>	
Further information	
Background	
<p>Kent County Council is under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. It is recognised that the winter service is essential in aiding the safe movement of highway users, maintaining communications, reducing delays and enabling everyday life to continue. It is very important to both road safety and the local economy. The winter service that the County Council provides is believed to be sufficient so far as is reasonably practical to discharge the duty imposed by the legislation. The winter service policy sets out how Highway Operations discharges its duties.</p> <p>Members to decide to accept the updated winter service policy which will include an update on the weather forecast and farmers contracts which have recently been procured.</p>	
How the proposed decision meets the objectives of 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)	
<p>Winter service is essential to keep Kent moving for social and economic development reasons. It also contributes towards Kent residents having a good quality of life in all weathers through local district winter plans, the provision of salt bins and the communication strategy that complements the winter service policy.</p>	
Financial implications	
<p>The allocated budget for winter service for 2015/16 is £3,230,800. £1,162,800 of this budget is allocated for 66 pre-cautionary salting runs on the primary network. £20,000 is allocated for the purchase of additional salt bins. The balance of the budget is for plant, equipment, salt and other resources necessary to deliver the service, including the weather forecast service. This sum does not include an allowance for a snow emergency. Risk- in the event of a prolonged period(s) of snow the cost to KCC could rise significantly</p>	
Legal Implications	
<p>The statutory basis for Winter Service in England and Wales is Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980, modified on 31st October 2003 by Section 111 of the Railways and Transport Act 2003</p>	
Equalities implications	
<p>The Winter Service policy prioritizes ice and snow clearance on the major roads in the</p>	

County to enable as many people as possible to continue to go about their daily business. Additionally local winter service plans have been developed for local more rural areas utilizing local farmers to clear snow when necessary. Within these plans there is provision for clearing areas that are used by vulnerable people including the elderly and young people. Local communities, principally parish councils, are also provided with a salt/sand mix for use in their area during snow days.

Consultation

Is any consultation planned or has already been undertaken?

No formal consultation required for this policy. Local district winter plans go to Joint Transportation Board for discussion.

Which Divisions / Local Members are particularly affected:

<http://kent590w3:9070/mgFindMember.asp>

All.

Exemptions

Is it expected that the Press and Public will be excluded for all or part of the discussion of the decision or that all or part of the decision documents will be exempt from publication? What is likely to be the reason for this exemption?

N/A

Supporting documents

Please list, and link or attach, any documents that the decision taker is likely to rely on in taking the decision

For further information or to make representations

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