



# WINTER SERVICE POLICY 2024-25

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### **3.0 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

3.1 The Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure





## **4.2 Footway and Footpath Priorities**

4.2.1 At the start of each winter, the Assistant Network and Standards Manager will produce footway and footpath treatment routes based generally on the following principle.

Priority 1 - Urban Shopping Areas and Precincts

Priority 2 - Other areas of high pedestrian concentration, e.g. in the vicinity of hospitals and schools.

Priority 3 - Steep hills in housing developments and in the vicinity of residential homes for the elderly.

4.2.2 Footways and footpaths will only be treated, in periods of lasting hazards, when the Duty Manager, in consultation with Area staff, considers that their physical condition makes it necessary and treatments will be effective. They will usually only be treated during normal working hours.

## **4.3 Resources**

### **4.3.1 Labour**

To ensure that an adequate labour resource is available to allow treatment to be carried out, arrangements are in place with Amenity Services section to participate in the supply of additional labour when conditions require.

### **4.3.2 Plant**

Plant to assist with the clearance of snow and spreading of salt has been provided by Road and Infrastructure Services. Attachments to mowers to allow footpath ploughing will be fitted at the start of each season, where practicable. Footway salt spreading barrows are provided for use by available labour when required.

## **4.4 Cycleways**

4.4.1 Only cycleways contiguous with roads and footways will be treated in conjunction with any planned treatments.

## **5.0 WINTER STANDBY, STANDBY PROCEDURES AND GRITTING GUIDELINES**

5.1 The formal winter standby period for Council roads will normally be from the end of the working day on the Friday nearest to 1st November to the Friday nearest to 15th April. This period may be extended at either end as the prevailing weather conditions dictate.

## **5.2 Shift and Standby Procedures**

- 5.2.1 During the operational period, standby arrangements will be operated on a formal home standby basis, with call-out as required. Arrangements will be put in place to allow mobilisation of frontline vehicles within 1 hour of call out.
- 5.2.2 Standby rotas will include sufficient drivers to ensure that the priority 1 routes can be treated within 3 hours of commencing treatment
- 5.2.3 On receipt of a weather forecast indicating medium to heavy snow, where resources allow, sufficient additional operatives will be placed on standby to cover all priority 1 & 2 routes and any priority 3 routes likely to be affected, as timetables indicate, by the forecast.

### **5.3 Carriageway Treatment**

- 5.3.1 Carriageways will generally be treated in the order of priority as specified in section 4.

By 13:00 each day during the winter months, having considered the most recent weather forecast, the level of residual salt on the road network and the available resources, the Duty Manager will compile an Action Plan for carriageway treatment for the following twenty-four hours. The Winter Manager will review, recommend any adjustments if needed and then approve the proposed plan.

- 5.3.2 Precautionary treatment for frost and light snow will be spread at a target rate of 10g/m<sup>2</sup> of salt.
- 5.3.3 Precautionary treatment of 20g/m<sup>2</sup> for conditions where frost is forecast after rain should be delayed as long as possible to reduce loss of salt due to wash-off. This should not preclude the treatment of routes during showers where freezing of rain on contact has been predicted or is reported.
- 5.3.4 Precautionary treatment when heavy snow falls are expected should be at a rate of between 20 and 40g/m<sup>2</sup> of salt according to the anticipated severity of snowfall and confidence level of the forecast.
- 5.3.5 In conditions where current snowfall is forecast to continue, substitution of salt with abrasive materials, sand or grit, will be instigated until such time as showers cease and any use of de-icing materials are deemed to be more effective. In extreme or persisting conditions, all material spreading will cease until there is an expectation that any deposits will remain on the carriageway and be effective in aiding traction.
- 5.3.6 In marginal conditions, consideration will be given to limiting treatment to known localised areas prone to icing. During periods of prolonged freezing conditions in the absence of precipitation, spot salting of areas of persistent seepage will continue while hazards remain.









salt stores with permanent roofs will be undertaken as quickly as practicable and as financial, planning and operational considerations allow.

- 8.2.2 Storage facilities will be loaded out prior to the commencement of operations and stock levels will be monitored weekly to assure optimum supplies are available throughout the season. Stores will be kept as full as practicable, as

to optimise the salt feed and regular checks of the calibration shall be carried out. Records of all tests and alterations to the calibration shall be maintained for inspection.

- 8.4.2 All spreaders shall have limiting devices fitted such that spread rates cannot exceed 60g/m<sup>2</sup>. The device may be fitted in such a manner as to allow it to be temporarily disconnected to assist the clearance of blockages.

## **8.5 Grit Bins and Grit Heaps**

- 8.5.1 Grit heaps and grit bins are normally placed on routes not included on the Priority 1 – 3 pre-treatment network, or on sections of these routes where additional self help facilities are considered advantageous. They are provided to allow the public to use the salt/grit mix to treat localised hazards on carriageways and footways on the public adopted network.
- 8.5.2 Grit heaps will be situated on rural road verges predominantly on bends, junctions or steep sections. They shall be placed at distances which provide a reasonable volume of material over the extent of any problem area as, if material has to be carried too far, it is unlikely to be used. Consideration will be given to the environmental impact associated with tree roots, hedges and watercourses.
- 8.5.3 Grit Bins will normally be situated in urban areas or where leaching from grit heaps in rural areas is likely to have an environmental impact. They are placed similarly to rural grit heaps to provide an additional self help facility in streets such as at bends, junctions, steep sections of carriageway or footway or close to schools and other public buildings where delays in planned treatments may result in persisting hazards. Care must be taken in locating bins to avoid impeding sight impaired pedestrians or access to public utilities or roads authority apparatus. Generally where practicable, grit bin sites will allow material to be carried downhill to treat sections of the public network
- 8.5.4 Replenishment of material to grit heaps or bins will be carried out as regularly as conditions of use require, within the confines of available resources. Sites in regular use may require more frequent visits and the mix of material may vary as operational resources and stocks of available materials permit. This may depend on the overall salt resilience capability of the Council in times of prolonged severe weather conditions.
- 8.5.5 Requests for the locating of additional grit heaps or grit bins in urban areas will be considered using the following criteria.

Is the request relevant to the Council asset of adopted roads and footway network?

Is there a genuine need for an additional facility, based on local knowledge, the type of hazard of concern and any accident history? The criteria for locations in 8.5.2 & 3 above will apply.

The proximity of similar facilities will be considered, as provision of bins and heaps often leads to further requests in similar locations.

The overall volume of bins and heaps will have an impact on the ability to provide an effective replenishment operation.

- 8.5.6 A register of grit bins shall be maintained by the Network and Standards Manager and their location and suitability will be reviewed annually. Grit bins will be serviced and all debris and litter removed prior to the start of the winter

10.3 The text forecast is augmented by other services as necessary, including the use of RADAR and satellite images to study precipitation patterns. There are fourteen Road Sensor stations, owned by the Council and maintained by MetDesk's partner Vaisala Ltd, giving atmospheric and surface conditions, situated throughout the Argyll and Bute road network.

## **11.0 OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**

### **11.1 Vehicle / Duty Supervisor / Depot Communications**

11.1.1 Winter maintenance vehicles are provided with a cellular telephone, such that contact may be maintained with the Duty Supervisor or depot at all times. When it is considered safe to do so, manning of vehicles fitted with effective communications facilities, will be limited to the driver only.

11.1.2 The fleet of 32nr frontline, route specifically allocated and other back-up, winter maintenance vehicles are fitted with satellite tracking and data-

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