

Report on	Winter Maintenance – Footpath Snow/Ice Clearance
Reporting Officer	Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services
Contact Officer	Terry Scullion, Head of Property Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek member's approval to enter into an agreement with DfI/Transport NI in relation to the treatment of footpaths in the main town centres within Mid Ulster District following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing.
2.0	Background
2.1	In the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 winter seasons an agreement was reached between Council and DRD/TNI to facilitate the treatment of footways within the business centres for the five largest towns within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
2.2	The agreement reached reflected the legal basis and the operational experience in operating such an agreement over previous years.
2.3	The agreement was not triggered during the last winter season.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The main issues covered within the Agreement are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Payment of annual Service Fee. In the 2016/17 winter season was £2,132.37. b) During extreme conditions following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing Council will assist the Department with works for the footways and pedestrian areas contained in maps included in the appendix for the five main settlements. c) Works will be carried out by Council only on receipt of a request from the Department and in circumstances when it is practicable for the Council to respond. d) The request will come from Department's Section Engineer to the Council's nominated representative. e) The Department shall provide any salt free of charge. f) The Council shall only provide a response to requests during normal operational hours of the street cleansing workforce, except in the case of an emergency or by mutual agreement. g) The Department shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Council to the extent that the Department enjoys indemnity under Article 9 (3) of the Roads (NI) Order 1993. h) The duration of the agreement will be from 1st November to 31st March.

3.2	It is proposed the contents of the agreement for the winter 2017/18 season are based on the agreement made for the winter 2016/17 winter seasons attached in Appendix 1, including maps detailing the five town retail cores where footpaths may be treated.
3.3	Similar to last year, Retail cores used by Council's planning team are proposed to ensure a more consistent application of the agreement across the business centres of each town. On agreement detailed operational maps will be developed for use by staff in the event the agreement is triggered.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Implementation of the Agreement should incur little additional cost to the Council as it seeks to utilise street cleansing and other service resources which would otherwise have been engaged in their normal operations save for extreme conditions following heavy snowfalls or prolonged freezing.</p> <p>Human: Officer time in managing the Agreement, liaising with DfI/Transport NI and in supervising any operational activity on the ground.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>It should be noted that the Council have no statutory duty in relation to the clearance of ice and snow from footways; that responsibility lies with Transport NI. The clearance of footways at times of extreme ice and snow from the main town centre assists in the free movement of people and therefore supports the economic cores in our town centres. This helps reduce the impact of extreme winter weather and reduces the associated economic and social risks.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report and grant approval to enter into discussion with DfI/Transport NI to reach agreement on the 2017/18 winter season with regards to the treatment of footways when extreme conditions following heavy snowfalls or prolonged freezing persists.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Copy of the 16/17 agreement between DRD/Transport NI and Mid Ulster District Council in relation to the treatment of footways at times of extreme conditions following heavy snowfalls or prolonged freezing, including maps of the five retail cores where footways to be treated.