

<b>Report on</b>	Town Centre Footpath Snow/Ice Clearance Agreement
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Eunan Murray, Grounds and Cemeteries Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members of the rolling annual agreement with DfI in relation to the treatment of footpaths in the main town centres within Mid Ulster District following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	In the 2018/19 winter season an agreement was reached between Council and Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads to facilitate the treatment of footways within the retail core centres of the five largest towns within the Mid Ulster District.
2.2	The agreement reached reflected the legal basis and the operational experience in operating such an agreement over previous years (since the formation of Mid Ulster Council in 2015). It was previously agreed that the arrangement would be extended on an annual basis and this is to include the 2022/23 winter season.
2.3	It should also be noted that the agreement wasn't triggered during the 2021/22 winter season.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The main issues covered within the Agreement are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) During extreme conditions following heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing Council will assist the Department with works on the footways and pedestrian areas contained in the five main settlements (as shown on maps included at appendix 1).</li> <li>b) 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.</li> <li>c) The request will come from Department's Section Engineer to the Council's nominated representative.</li> <li>d) The Department shall provide any salt free of charge.</li> </ul>

	<p>e) 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.</p> <p>f) 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.</p> <p>g) The duration of the agreement will be from 1st November to 31st March each winter season.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial: Implementation of the agreement should incur little additional cost to the Council as it seeks to utilise street cleansing and grounds maintenance operatives, and other service resources which would otherwise have been engaged in their normal operations save for extreme conditions following heavy snowfalls or prolonged freezing. The amount payable to Council for 2022/23 will be £2,430.</p>
	<p>Human: Officer time in managing the Agreement, liaising with DfI and in supervising any operational activity on the ground.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: It should be noted that the Council has 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>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: None</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Retail core maps for Snow/Ice Clearance operations included in the Council/DfI agreement