

<b>Report on</b>	Winter Maintenance of the Council Estate
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	9 February 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To Consider the issues Surrounding Winter Maintenance of the Council Estate.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Council at its meeting of 28 January 2021 requested that the Director of Environment & Property bring forward a report to the next meeting of the Environment Committee such that Members could further consider the matter.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	As a consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the resultant regulations which have led to the closure of the Council's indoor Leisure facilities a significant increase in outdoor recreation, within Council, owned or operated facilities, particularly with reference to walking has been noted across the Council Estate. In particular the matter is relevant to the various outdoor walkways and pathways as managed by the Director of leisure and Outdoor Recreation.
3.2	The attention of Members is drawn to the previous report as submitted to the October 2018 Meeting of the Environment Committee in relation to this matter and as attached to this report as Appendix 1.
3.3	It is important that the Council develops a robust Policy in relation to the deployment of its resources for the provision of winter maintenance treatments in order to ensure that it is both taking reasonably practicable steps in this regard and that it can demonstrate that it has in fact complied with its Policy as a defence against any claims for example in relation to personal injury.
3.4	In developing a Policy on the treatment of the various access areas within the Council Estate with relation to frost, ice and snow a number of factors need to be considered including but not limited to:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statement of Service</li> <li>2. Response Times</li> <li>3. Period of Cover</li> <li>4. Targeted Treatment Times</li> <li>5. Target Standards</li> <li>6. Road, Path and Footway Hierarchy</li> <li>7. Weather Forecast Monitoring</li> <li>8. Decision Making in relation to Treatment Instigation</li> <li>9. Resourcing</li> <li>10. Plant and Vehicles</li> <li>11. Supervision and Operational issues including staffing and communications</li> <li>12. Salt Supplies</li> <li>13. Communications with the Public and Site Users</li> </ol>
3.5	Officer from Environment & Property and Leisure & Outdoor Recreation have begun the process of identifying the areas of Council Estate that would be affected by a more wide-ranging policy in particular with reference to the application of gritting to pathways and footways where the surfaces are suitable for such treatments; that is in relation to tarmac, bitmac and related similar surfaces. Work will continue to develop a robust Policy and associated operational procedures to support the Policy.
3.6	Officers will initially revert to the Environment Committee on the conclusion of this work for members to consider the Policy although its final approval and the implications of any additional resources will be a matter for the Policy and Resources Committee. Further reports will be brought forward in due course.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: There will be a financial implication in relation to plant, equipment, salt supplies and salaries and wages costs; particularly where any treatment is carried out outwith of normal operating hours; these costs may include standby and overtime payments. No allowances have been made in the Revenue Estimates for 2021/2022 at this juncture as the potential costs have yet to be identified in relation to what could be a weather and demand driven application of the Policy.
	Human: Officer time in developing and implementing the Policy and ensure records are maintained of any treatments.
	Risk Management: Clearly there is a risk to the travelling public at times of ice and snow and the Council should clearly develop and implement a reasonable and robust Policy in relation to the treatment of the Council Estate at times of ice and snow
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	To be determined.

	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>To be determined.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the Contents of the Report and to receive further Reports in due course
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Report to the Environment Committee of 9 October 2018; Winter Maintenance of Council Estate in Snow and Ice.