
THANET WINTER SERVICE PLAN

To: **Thanet Joint Transportation Board, Thursday 13th September**

By: **Spencer Palmer – Head of Highway Operations – Kent County Council**

Classification: This report is open to the public

Ward: **All**

Summary: This report outlines the arrangements that have been made by Kent County Council to provide a local winter service in the event of an operational snow alert.

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Kent County Council Highways & Transportation (KCC H&T) takes its winter service responsibilities very seriously and is proactive as well as reactive to winter weather conditions. Winter service costs KCC in the region of £2m every winter and needs careful management to achieve safety for the travelling public and to be efficient. The Highways Operations teams in H&T work to ensure that the winter service standards and decisions made are consistent across the whole county.
- 1.2 KCC H&T prepares an annual Winter Service policy and plan which are used to determine actions that will be taken to manage its winter service operations. The policy is being submitted to the Environment, Highways and Waste Cabinet Committee on 20th September 2012.

2.0 District based winter service plans

- 2.1 The Local Winter Service Plan for the Thanet District is a working document. It will evolve and be revised as necessary throughout the year. The document will be available on the KCC website. This document complements the KCC Winter Service Policy and Plan 2012-13. Following successful work in previous year's with district councils, arrangements have again been put in place this year whereby labour from district councils can be used during snow days. Additionally H&T will supply a quantity of a salt/sand mixture to district councils to use on the highway network. The details are contained in the plan attached at Appendix 1. This plan enhances the work that H&T will continue to do in providing a countywide winter service. The local plan comes into effect when a snow operational alert is declared that affects the district of Thanet.

3.0 Pavement clearance

- 3.1 Areas for clearing pavements have been identified in the district plan. These are the areas where local knowledge has indicated that people are concerned and would most like to be kept clear when there is snow and ice.

4.0 Farmers

The work that our contracted farmers have done in recent years is greatly appreciated and has made a big difference in keeping rural areas clear on snow days. Again this year farmers will have predetermined local routes and will use their own tractor and KCC ploughs for clearing snow. The ploughs supplied are serviced by KCC each year. Each farmer will have plans detailing the roads that that they are responsible for ploughing. When snow reaches a depth of 50mm on roads in their areas the farmers will commence ploughing notifying KCC as agreed in their contract. A list of farmers and their contact details is given in the local plan although some personal information will not be available via this report or the website.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

- 5.1 Working in partnership with the district councils will enable KHT to provide an effective winter service across the county

Contact Officer:	<i>Paul Valek 08458 247800</i>
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Annex List

<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>Thanet Winter Service Plan</i>
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