To: Dover Joint Transportation Board

By: Andrew Loosemore – Head of Highway Asset Management

Date: 8 December 2016

Subject: Local Winter Service Plan

Classification: Information only

Summary: This report outlines the arrangements that have been made between Kent County Council and Dover District Council to provide a local winter service in the event of an operational snow alert in the district

1. Introduction

1 (1) Kent County Council Highways, Transportation & Waste (KCC HTW) 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 £3.2m every winter and needs careful management to achieve safety for the travelling public and to be efficient. The Highways Operations teams in HTW work to ensure that the winter service standards and decisions made are consistent across the whole county.

1(2) HTW 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 was presented to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 9th September 2016 and subsequently approved by the Cabinet Member.

2. District-Based Winter Service Plans

2(1) The Local Winter Service Plan for the Dover District is a working document which will evolve and be revised as necessary throughout the year. This document complements the KCC Winter Service Policy and Plan 2016/17; the Policy is available on the KCC website.

2(2) Following successful work in previous years with district councils, arrangements have again been put in place this year whereby labour from district councils can be used during snow days. Additionally HTW 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 which enhances the work that HTW will continue to do in providing a countywide winter

service. The local plan comes into effect when a snow emergency is declared that affects the district of Dover

http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transport-and-highways-policies/winter-service-policy

3. Pavement Clearance

3 (1) Areas for clearing pavements have been identified in the local 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. Farmers

4(1) 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 can be found in the local plan, (although some personal information will not be available via this report or the website due to Data Protection legislation).

5. Conclusion

5(1) Working in partnership with the district councils will enable HTW to provide an effective winter service across the county.

6. Recommendations

6(1) Members are asked to note this report.

Background documents:
Kent County Council Winter Service Policy and Plan 2016/17

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