



Coventry City Council

Council Meeting

11th January, 2011

**Booklet 2:
Answer to Written Question**

1.

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Andrews

TO BE ANSWERED BY: Councillor Harvard

TEXT OF QUESTION:

What assessment has been made about the effectiveness of the Council's gritting programme and have any areas been identified for improvement for winter 2011?

Answer:

A thorough review of our gritting procedures and policies was undertaken last Summer which resulted in the following recommendations being approved at the Cabinet Member – City Services meeting on the 9th November 2010:

1. To a change in the winter maintenance policy, requiring there to be 5,000 tonnes of salt in stock at the beginning of the winter season; this is the capacity of the salt barn at Whitley Depot. This will ensure that Coventry will be able to continue to grit its current network during winters that may be more severe than that experienced in 2009/10.
2. That subject to recommendation 4 below, the current and established priority network will continue to be gritted as normal. This includes all of the primary routes, the main bus routes, and significant local traffic routes. A map showing the priority gritting network is attached at Appendix A.
3. To the implementation of telematics on the winter gritting fleet for this season.
4. That in the extremely unlikely event of a winter far more severe than that of recent years, or if Central Government instructs local authorities to reduce their salt usage and percentage of network that is gritted, the council will implement an emergency gritting network as shown in Appendix B. This network comprises all A and B roads. It is also recommended that other reasonable requests for gritting will be considered and where it is operationally feasible these will be met. Whilst this proposal will only be invoked as a last resort, it is prudent and necessary to have this contingency plan in place.
5. That public information on the winter maintenance service is enhanced through inclusion on the council's website of the priority and emergency networks, and a location map of the self help grit bins.

(Note: All recommendations have been implemented with the exception of 3 where implementation is well underway, the delay being caused by the fact that the gritters have been in constant use!)



