

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer – Roads & Neighbourhood (Shared Service)

Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Growth: 17 November 2021

Subject: Out of Hours Footway Gritting

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update members on the costs incurred following the implementation of the additional footway gritting actions during the period between November 2020 and March 2021 and to agree footway gritting actions for the Winter Plan 2021/22.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** It is recommended that Committee:

(i) notes the incurred additional costs identified in 4.4 below and the number of times treatment took place for the period between November 2020 and March 2021;

(ii) notes the anticipated financial impact for 2021/22 set out in 4.5 below should a similar gritting regime be implemented for Winter 2021/22 and that there is no budget available for delivery of this level of provision;

(iii) agrees that should out of hours footway gritting Option1 or Option 2 be approved that a suitable budget is identified for 2021/22 and that this will require to be ratified by Council; and

(iv) instructs Officers to update the Winter Plan to reflect the out of hours footway gritting position.

3. Background

- 3.1** Council passed a motion on 27 November 2019 requesting a report setting out proposals to deliver additional footway gritting actions outwith normal working hours. The measures implemented were considered and approved at the Council meeting held on 29th January 2020.

- 3.2** Additional footway treatment was implemented during the period January to March 2020 (12 week period). This included footway treatment working outwith normal working hours as weather conditions required. A further report was requested to detail the financial impact and evaluation of the measures undertaken. This was presented to Council on 30 September 2020.

3.3 An evaluation was undertaken to reflect the success of the measures. Social media messaging, facebook comments and email received were reviewed and the public response was in the main positive to the additional measures taken. In particular gritting at schools was considered beneficial.

3.4 The update report considered on 30 September 2020 set out 3 options with anticipated financial implications for consideration by members:

- Option 1 Continuation of the full footway treatment in place January to March
- Option 2 Targeted treatment of priority 1 routes
- Option 3 No additional footway gritting outwith normal working hours

3.5 Council agreed that Option 1 should be implemented and the financial impact and number of times treatment took place are set out in 4.4 below for consideration.

4. Main Issues

4.1 The Winter Plan sets out the carriageway and footway treatment actions in accordance with the Well Maintained Roads Code of Practice. The statutory requirement is aligned to option 3, options 1 and 2 provide an enhanced operational service.

4.2 Footway gritting is normally only undertaken during normal working hours (8am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday). Priority is given to the following:

- Town centre pedestrian areas,
- Adjacent areas to schools,
- Health care centres,
- Public Transport Hubs,
- Footways adjacent to day centres and sheltered housing, and
- Main pedestrian routes in major housing developments.

There are 40 priority footway treatment routes which take in the region of 4 hours to complete.

Following the treatment of priority routes and should weather conditions require the secondary footway routes will be treated.

4.3 Between January and March 2020 out of hours footway gritting was carried out on 10 occasions and the financial implications of this were as follows:

Item	Costs
Standby (4 weekly)	£9,743
Overtime (4 weekly)	£5,612
Total (4 weekly)	£15,355
Total (12 weeks)	£46,063

- 4.4 During the period from November 2020 to March 2021 treatment was carried out on 28 occasions and the financial implications were as follows:

Item	Costs
Standby (4 weekly)	£11,241
Overtime (4 weekly)	£15,210
Total (4 weekly)	£26,361
Total (20 weeks)	£131,805

- 4.5 Winter 20/21 had a high number of sub zero periods and would be considered a colder winter period than an average winter. The following would be the anticipated financial impacts for November 2021 to March 2022 should the Service continue to deliver option 1 level of footway gritting:

Item	Costs
Standby (4 weekly)	£11,241
Overtime (4 weekly)	£10,864
Total (4 weekly)	£22,105
Total (20 weeks)	£110,526

It is anticipated treatment would be carried out on 20 occasions. This could change depending on weather forecasts.

- 4.6 The financial implications set out in 4.5 assume that option 1 out of hours is continued for winter 21/22. Should option 2 be implemented the anticipated cost would be in the region of **£85,020**. As before there is no cost to option 3 as this reverts back to no out of hours footway gritting.
- 4.7 There is no revenue budget allocated to out of hours footway gritting and the costs incurred during winter 2020/21 were funded through use of reserves and remaining funding made available through the motion for winter 2019/20. The budget made available following the motion is exhausted.
- 4.8 3 options were assessed and considered by Council. These remain the current options and are as follows:

Option 1

Treatment of all priority footways carried out with normal working hours when weather conditions require. Once completed treatment will commence on secondary routes.

Option 2

A targeted footway treatment programme with routes classified as priority 1 or priority 2 routes being implemented. Secondary routes done within working hours.

Option 3

No additional out of working hours footway treatment. This is the statutory requirement.

4.9 The anticipated financial implications of each option are contained within the table below. :

Option	Cost (£)
Option 1	110,526
Option 2	85,020
Option 3	0

The costs for option 1 and option 2 are indicative as these will depend on weather conditions and the number of times the weather forecast requires treatment.

Whilst Officers note the previous decisions of Council the Service would recommend the continuation of statutory service which is reflected in the available budget and historic practices and aligns with option 3.

5 People Implications

5.1 If out of hours footway gritting is approved then it is proposed that Greenspace operatives be approached to confirm availability for stand-by rota week commencing 21st November 2021.

6 Financial & Procurement Implications

6.1 Delivering an out of hours footway gritting service that is not option 3 would incur additional cost. Under option 1 this will cost in the region of £110,000 for an average winter and under option 2 this would incur in the region of £85,000.

Currently this is not included in the revenue budget for 2021/22.

6.2 There are no procurement implications with this report.

7 Risk Analysis

7.1 There is a risk that should the footway gritting option 1 or 2 be approved that operatives do not agree to volunteer for the standby rota and this cannot be suitably resourced.

8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An EIA is not required as the report proposes a continuation of current footway gritting activity

9 Consultation

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with Finance and Legal Services.

10 Strategic Assessment

10.1 The proposals within this report support the following strategic priorities:

- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

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Date: 27 October 2021

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Background Papers: **Footway Gritting Proposals**
 29 January 2020

Footway Gritting Update
30th September 2020

Winter Plan

Wards Affected: **All wards**